Daily Report

Latin America

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Daily Report
Latin America

FBIS-LAT-94-168 *30 August 1994*

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Cuba

Government Forms Delegation for Talks With U.S.

PA3008015294 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0100 GMT 30 Aug 94

[From the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[Text] The Cuban Government has released a statement on an agreement with the U.S. Government to discuss immigration this week.

The Cuban delegation to these talks will be headed by Ricardo Alarcon and will also include Jose Arbizu and Olga Miranda, among others. The statement adds the participation of the majority of its members in previous talks of this nature and the fact they have the necessary experience for these negotiations were taken into consideration during the selection of the Cuban delegation.

The document states Alarcon's designation for this task despite his present duties is based on the fact he possesses the greatest experience and knowledge in discussing this sensitive issue with the U.S. Government.

The document states it was Alarcon who participated in the past in the discussions that culminated in the 1984 Agreement, with which the U.S. Government has failed to comply.

Finally, the Cuban Government's statement says Alarcon is also familiar with the causes of the large-scale emigrations and is fully empowered, and capable, to present Cuba's viewpoints.

Alarcon To Head; Other Delegates Listed

FL3008020094 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Aug 94

[From the "NTV" newscast]

[Text] Information from the Cuban Government: As has been advised, the Governments of the Republic of Cuba and of the United States have agreed to hold talks on immigration issues this week.

The delegation representing Cuba's government in these talks will be presided over by Comrade Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada. The delegation will include the following Comrades: Jose Arbesu Fraga, Olga Miranda Bravo, Carlos Fernandez de Cosio Dominguez, and (Valquidia Fernandez Valdez). For the majority of these participants, the factors considered in their designation as delegation members is previous experience in talks of this type, as well as the experience necessary for these negotiations.

Notwithstanding Comrade Alarcon's current responsibilities, his designation for this task is based on the fact that he has the experience and understanding needed to head the debate of these delicate issues with the U.S. Government. In the past, Alarcon was the person who debated the process that resulted in the 1984 accord, with which the United States has not complied.

Finally, information from the Cuban Government indicates that Comrade Alarcon has complete understanding of both the fundamental causes of the massive immigration, plus full authority and capacity to broach Cuba's points of view.

U.S. Reaction to Decision To Ban Children From Leaving Noted

PA3008015494 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0006 GMT 30 Aug 94

[From the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[Text] The White House termed as an appropriate gesture Cuban President Fidel Castro's decision to ban the departure for the United States of improvised craft that are carrying children or adolescents aboard. White House Spokesperson Dee Dee Myers said the protection of children's and other persons' lives is an important gesture; adding it is something good, because it stops people from risking their lives.

GRANMA Dispels Rumor of Embassies' Readiness To Grant Visas

FL2908141594 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Aug 94

[From the "NTV" newscast]

[Text] Today's GRANMA includes a note on rumors that some embassies may open their installations to issue visas. The note warns that such rumors are unfounded since positions on the migration issues remain unchanged. The note adds that the public will be notified of any such change in the appropriate manner, as usual.

Commentator Fears U.S. Wants To Add Star to 'Yankee Flag'

FL2908172394 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1155 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Commentary by Eduardo Dimas; from the "Doing Radio" program: "Our Opinion"]

[Text] Reportage and commentary on the contradictory measures the Clinton administration has taken in the so-called Cuban rafter crisis, such as suspending the Cuban Adjustment Act of 1966 and reinforcing the embargo against our country, increase daily.

News agencies are reporting that different takes on the Cuba issue are at the root of problems between the National Security Council, headed by Anthony Lake, and the U.S. State Department, headed by Warren Christopher. It is clear thus far that the U.S. State Department's position takes priority and fundamentally coincides with the postulates of the most reactionary

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Cuban elements based in Miami, whose influence on the Democratic government increases daily.

The Security Council points out—and rightfully so—that while the embargo—as they call it—has brought problems to the Cuban economy, it has not been able to destroy the Revolution. Since they do not believe that it will fall any time soon, they propose that the relationship between Cuba and the United States change to see if they can achieve through fair means what they have not been able to achieve through foul means. Furthermore, the number of Democratic congressmen supporting this agenda grows daily.

Although this crisis has divided the Democratic Party somewhat, this does not necessarily mean that it will be rocked. Many observers stress that the Clinton administration does not have a defined and coherent foreign policy and that Clinton's decisions vary according to his level of popularity in the polls. Other observers note that there is a tendency within the U.S. Government to look at the Cuban problem as a domestic policy issue, something that is pretty absurd after 35 years of Revolution.

It is logical to assume that this was how things were prior to 1959. It was said in republican Cuba that the two most important figures in the country were the U.S. ambassador and the president of the republic, in that order. This explains why Cuban issues were considered domestic U.S. problems rather than foreign policy issues. If that ghost is still around today, we might guess that the theory of the ripened fruit has not died and that the ghost of the Platt Amendment walks the halls of the White House and the State Department. This explains the Cuban mafia's grip on past U.S. Governments: They are annexationists.

As I write this commentary, I can see on the satellite monitor a demonstration of Cubans in Miami—organized by the Cuban-American National Foundation—demanding a total blockade of our country, a world blockade, and other such barbarisms. This event is important because it demonstrates to what point hatred can go. Asking for a total blockade, knowing that it would be the island's people who would suffer the most, is a sign of mental derangement because the relatives and friends of those who are asking for such a thing live here, in Cuba.

A reporter of Cuban origin and of a senile age asked the U.S. Government some time ago for a three-day license to kill when the Revolution falls. What else can we expect? This is a petition by a vassal and not by anyone with self-worth. He is despicable.

I do not know about you, but I do not want my country to be another star on the Yankee flag or a commonwealth. I love my fatherland's independence and sovereignty. There would be a huge bloodbath in any case. There is no room for contradiction on this matter. Do we agree?

Spokesman Discusses Ties With U.S., Other States

FL2908134994 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Aug 94

[Report by correspondent Rosaura Munoz; from the "NTV" newscast]

[Text] Miguel Alfonso, Cuban Foreign Ministry spokesman, has held a news conference with national and foreign reporters in Havana. Alfonso described relations between Cuba and the United States as tense and ever-increasing relations with Latin American and European countries as very important. His comments come as Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina tours several Latin American countries. Alfonso noted that agreements on trading wood and oil have been signed in Ecuador during Robaina's tour and that the Peruvian and Namibian ministers who recently visited Cuba held fruitful exchanges.

Alfonso commented on Mexico's willingness to issue visas to Cubans invited by relatives in that country and to create conditions for dialogue between the U.S. and Cuban Governments:

[Begin Alfonso recording] I would like to stress that this demonstrates the Latin American reaction to the U.S. Government intensifying measures against Cuba. [end recording]

He also confirmed Russia's interest in reestablishing relations with Cuba after having been destabilized. He added that these relations are more than just something to hope for but are necessary.

Miguel Alfonso focused on increasing political and economic relations between Cuba and countries on all continents.

Government Official Analyzes Relations With U.S.

PA2908224094 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 2010 GMT 29 Aug 94

[By Javier Rodriguez]

[Text] Havana, 29 Aug (PL)—Jorge Bolanos, Cuban foreign relations vice minister, said today that discussing only immigration issues during the upcoming Cuban-U.S. negotiations will fail to solve the existing problems in bilateral relations.

In an interview granted to PRENSA LATINA, Bolanos pointed out that the bilateral difficulties include the economic blockade imposed on Cuba more than 30 years ago, the harassment by the many U.S. administrations, and the incessant threats against Havana by Washington.

Nevertheless, in keeping with our revolution's traditional policies and as a contribution to the solution of the current illegal mass exodus to the United States, we are

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willing to address this issue, among others, and to find possibilities of discussing this issue in depth, he underscored.

Afterward, he recalled that, according to statistics and proportionally speaking, the Cuban immigration ranks 40th or 50th compared to other countries' immigration and is not triggered by the social system.

Immigration rates place dozens of countries above us, countries where there is plenty of capitalism, the vice minister added.

To this effect, Bolanos refused to analyze the existing immigration situation based upon the need for changes in the Cuban socioeconomic system.

Later on during the interview, he deemed the United States' use of Guantanamo Naval Base, in eastern Cuba, as a concentration camp for the Cuban emigrants an aggression against international law, because it is illegal in principle.

They are creating a situation [foco] within that territory, which poses serious risks not only with regard to health and the food situation or resulting from the illegal use of the base, but also with regard to the military aspect, because the base is an enclave that exists against the Cuban people's will, he said.

Bolanos added that because the use of the base lacks balanced targets and objectives, it increases the risk of tension in the area and even sparks protests, like the ones staged by Haitians as they saw themselves being discriminated against and mistreated by U.S. authorities.

The vice minister also addressed the verbal abuse by the most conservative Cuban sectors in exile in Miami, including several legislators who advocate a naval blockade on the Caribbean nation.

Their opinions fail to deprive us of our sleep, because they belong to those who are dreaming about the war they never had the courage to wage and about starving our people to return to Cuba and make it a country annexed to the United States, he pointed out.

He also pointed out that returning to the past is impossible in Cuba, because its population knows too well the system abolished by the revolutionary process.

Vice Minister Bolanos assessed that the recent measures the Clinton administration adopted against the island "expose part of the hypocritical propaganda against Cuba, propaganda in which the United States always said it advocated family reunions."

These provisions go against finding a solution to humanitarian issues and against family reunions at times when Cuba is not only making them easier but also promoting them as it corresponds to civilized nations, he concluded.

U.S. Government Said 'Bull in a China Shop'

FL2908230094 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 27 Aug 1700 GMT 94

[Commentary by Susana Tesoro from the "National Radio News"]

[Text] It is not very hard to understand some of the attitudes of the U.S. Government; it takes only the realization that they possess the total conviction of the all-powerful. It is true that the United States is the richest country, and has the highest living standards. According to their interpretation of history, Latin American people can have no ambition but to attain the American lifestyle.

What has been happening with Cuba since 1959 is simply a manifestation of the impotence of imperialistic thought, with its permanent threat: We leave Cubans without food, medicine, business, or an economy because we are in command and issue the orders, and Cuba—a small, poor, underdeveloped island—will end up surrendering.

Thus, through this training that the United States has prepared for them, the Cuban people have learned to live without many things, some superfluous and some essential. The blockade is a type of school of resistance, in which an A+ grade is given at the end of the learning process. For this, we thank the United States.

Many of those living in Miami believe that if the Cuban blockade were lifted, then it would be clear that our shortages and economic deficiencies are not related to the blockade; in this way, they would be able to prove that the blockade is not the cause of our hardships. However, the Clinton administration wants to prove no such thing, one reason being that the Cuban ultra-right Mafia in Florida has been able to manipulate the administration.

The U.S. Government is spending a significant amount of money, now that every Cuban immigrating by any means is received and taken to the Guantanamo base. The U.S. Government is squandering money with the same ease as those spending what they do not own, another way to boast of their power.

One has to wonder why the U.S. Government has so many contradictions in their policies, and why they are an echo of the right wing in Miami. The belief that they are almighty and supermen in this unipolar world gives the U.S. Government the clumsiness of the giant. The U.S. Government behaves like a bull in a china shop, and this Gulliverian vision has wrapped it in a problem with unforeseeable consequences.

Guantanamo Residents Demonstrate Against U.S. Policy

PA3008024494 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Report from Guantanamo by Reinaldo Santana Lopez; from the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

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[Text] Greetings Radio Havana Cuba listeners. We are bringing this report to you from Guantanamo, approximately 1,000 km east of Havana.

The U.S. position to maintain and heighten the blockade against Cuba and not to seek serious solutions to the problem of the Cubans who are illegally emigrating to the United States was recently denounced in Caimanera Municipality. During a massive demonstration held at the central park, thousands of demonstrators demanded the withdrawal of the illegal U.S. naval base, which is built on Caimanera Municipality land. The residents also expressed their opposition to the holding of thousands of Haitian and Cuban illegal immigrants on that base. The demonstrators shouted slogans in support of the Cuban revolution and described as hypocritical the U.S. immigration policy for Cubans who are interested in living in the United States basically because of the economic situation they encounter as a result of the imperialist blockade. The demonstrators said that the U.S. Government is cutting back on the number of visas for Cubans who wish to enter the United States legally, yet it greets the illegal immigrants, including terrorists who hijack planes and boats and who kidnap and murder.

It was also learned that the protection and surveillance system has been activated throughout Guantanamo Province and measures have been reinforced to prevent the illegal crossing to the Yankee naval base. On more than one occasion, the people have been warned of the risk they would be taking if they tried to cross to the naval base by land, because the biggest mine fields in the world are found on both sides of the fence. They have also been told that an explosion or any other accident could give the enemy grounds for an aggression.

Only a few days after this demonstration in Caimanera Municipality, the U.S. Government announced that it is willing to discuss the immigration issue with Cuba.

Remaining Cubans More Numerous, Important Than Migrants

FL3008022994 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 29 Aug 94

[From the "Exclusive" program]

[Text] In Brazil during his official visit, Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina stated that to the government of his country, the 10 million Cubans who trust Cuba's political system are more important than the 100,000 who seek asylum in the United States.

When questioned about the exodus of Cubans toward the United States, Robaina stated that it is normal for people to want to escape economic difficulties. Robaina pointed out that in Cuba there are 100,000 people who would like to leave, but that there are also 10 million who resist and are not seen by anyone in the world. Robaina stressed that for over 30 years, the United States has called Cubans political refugees, but now, just since last week, those same immigrants have been transformed into economic immigrants. Robaina went on to say that the difficulties in Cuba are enormous and finally require people to fall into the arms of the American dream, but that dream will turn into a nightmare.

With reference to the talks that Cuba is to hold with the United States to resolve the rafters' exodus problem, Robaina stated that if they are going to broach human rights, that debate must be held at all levels and among all countries.

Rafters View Journey to U.S.; 'Fatigue Everywhere'

PA3008030894 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Canal A Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Report by Fernando Rasberg in Cuba; from the "Seven O'Clock Newscast"; passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] The "Seven O'Clock Newscast" was able to board a Cuban boat on its way to the high seas to guard Cuban territorial waters. During the journey, we ran into tens of drifting rafters who refused to accept our help, because they would rather die or reach Florida. We had never been so close to the plight of the Cubans. Fernando Rasberg has filed a report via satellite:

[Rasberg] Journeying along the Cuban coasts means running into a raft every ten minutes. The first indications of exhaustion emerge at 10 nautical miles off the coast. The Cuban rafters ask and beg for a lift. They want to be pulled for at least one mile:

[First unidentified speaker] "We are returning to Havana. Do you want to come with us?

[Second unidentified speaker] "Not to Havana.

[Third unidentified speaker] "Twenty five dollars [words indistinct]"

[Rasberg] They are still determined, however, to continue their journey, convinced the U.S. Coast Guard will rescue them at 20 miles:

[First unidentified speaker] "Do you know you will be housed at Guantanamo Naval Base?

[Unidentified speakers, in unison] "Yes.

[First unidentified speaker] "Do you care?

[Unidentified speakers, in unison] "No, not at all. Pull us over there.

[First unidentified speaker] "Did you leave your women and children behind?

[Fourth unidentified speaker] "Pull us, at least a little.

[Fifth unidentified rafter] "Yes."

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[Rasberg] The Cuban captain who was piloting the boat refused to get closer, because he feared he could be boarded. Few Cubans carry weapons. They have set a path and tirelessly row to keep to it:

[Sixth unidentified speaker] "We do not want to go back to Cuba, because we are starving there.

[Seventh unidentified speaker] "Not to Cuba.

[Eighth unidentified speaker] "Take us to Guantanamo or wherever you wish but Cuba.

[First unidentified speaker] "Aren't you afraid?

[Ninth unidentified speaker] "We are here, because we are determined to face anything.

[First unidentified speaker] "For how long do you have food?

[Ninth unidentified speaker] "What?

[First unidentified speaker] "For how long do you have food?

[Ninth unidentified rafter] "For maybe three days; we have food for three days.

[First unidentified speaker] "What do you have?

[Ninth unidentified speaker] "(?Pizza), water, and refreshments."

[Rasberg] We could see only one child; he was three years old and seemed to be traveling in good conditions. We could do nothing for them:

[First unidentified speaker] "Do you have a child on board?

[Tenth Unidentified speaker] "Yes.

[First unidentified speaker] "Where is he?

[Tenth unidentified speaker] "Here."

[First unidentified speaker] "How old is he?

[Tenth unidentified speaker] "[Words indistinct]"

[Rasberg] We are risking imprisonment and a fine by U.S. authorities if we help them reach their destination. Their plight has been politicized, and humanitarianism is forbidden:

[First Unidentified speaker] "Where are you going?

[Tenth unidentified speaker] "To the United States. We are trying to reach the United States.

[First unidentified speaker] "Where are you from?

[Eleventh unidentified speaker] "Cuba."

[Rasberg] We journeyed 10 miles and ran into seven rafts carrying 40 people—thirst, hunger, and fatigue everywhere.

TV Reports 26 Aug Tugboat Hijacking

FL2908143594 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Aug 94

[From the "NTV" newscast]

[Text] A group of people managed to enter the tuna fishing fleet's (Gala Inena) shipyard, in Casablanca, just before dawn—at around 0400—on 26 August. The night guard said that he was surprised that women and children were there at such an hour. The Miguel Tavarez tugboat's pilot and mechanic both seized upon the opportunity to hold the guard at gunpoint, load a number of people onto the tugboat, and commandeer the tugboat to the United States. Two other night guards who were nearby reported that several men were seen trying to enter the shipyard but fled when discovered by the guards.

While this was happening, the tugboat reached the open seas, where it was escorted to the boundary of Cuban territorial waters by a Border Guard vessel that unsuccessfully tried to convince the hijackers to forego their criminal act.

The Miguel Tavarez tugboat is a wooden vessel designed to carry a crew of four. It is 17 meters long and 3.6 meters wide and was at the shipyard for repairs. In addition to the pilot and the mechanic, another 15 people aboard were picked up by a U.S. border guard in international waters.

Interior Ministry authorities have announced that contacts have been initiated between the Cuban Border Guard and the U.S. Coast Guard to arrange for the tugboat's return. An investigation into all the facts continues.

Party Official Rewards Youths for Thwarting Hijack

FL2908150894 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Aug 94

[From the "NTV" newscast; all figures as heard]

[Text] Six youths have thwarted the hijacking of a ship in Moa Bay with their quick and courageous actions. Jorge Luis Sierra, Cuban Communist Party first secretary in Holguin Province, presented awards during the mass rally in Moa to eight outstanding local youths who thwarted the hijacking of a ferro-cement vessel used for recreation on Moa's beach and bay. The mass rally became a patriotic expression of revolutionary commitment. A group of criminals and antisocials tried to hijack the vessel at around 1530 on 26 August, as it was returning to port with approximately 200 on board, mainly women and children. The criminals mentioned the adverse weather conditions and plans to go to Guantanamo Naval Base yet went ahead with this reckless adventure, risking tens of innocent lives.

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This is how it happened: Ferro-cement passenger ship No. 43 was commandeered by force during its regular trip between Cayo Moa and Holguin's northern industrial complex pier and steered toward the bay's mouth. Just over 100 carefree passengers boarded the ship to travel from Cayo Moa to Moa City just a few minutes earlier. Barely off the pier, seven people armed with knives and flares reached the pilot's cabin and threatened him into changing the boat's course. Surprise and panic made somewhere between 60 and 100 passengers jump ship to avoid a reckless adventure of which they wanted no part. Surprise and panic also reigned in the cabin when the hijackers—antisocials, some of whom are even awaiting trial—felt in their own flesh the resolute and virile response of six youths who remained on board and who, at the risk of their own lives, confronted and subdued the hijackers. One of the hijackers was injured by his own weapon during the fight. While the six courageous young men were trying to prevent the hijacking, a 19-year-old man swam at full speed toward the pier to warn nearby vessels and the Border Guard, which immediately dispatched a vessel to rescue the citizens who had jumped ship, therefore averting any loss of life. In the end, three of the hijackers were injured.

The indignant people of Moa gathered outside the National Revolutionary Police station to protest the hijackers' savage crime following their arrest. Local authorities had to protect the hijackers and transfer them to other facilities. The investigation into the incident continues.

Panamanian Government Adviser Urges End to U.S. Blockade

PA2908175094 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 1612 GMT 29 Aug 94

[By Correspondent Mario Mainade: "The United States Must End Its Blockade of Cuba, PRD Leader Has Stated"]

[Text] Panama, 29 Aug (PL)—The United States must end its anachronistic blockade of Cuba for the good of its future relations in a constantly changing world, a prestigious leader of the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) of Panama declared today.

Romulo Escobar Bethancourt, principal adviser of the new government that will take power on Thursday, told PRENSA LATINA that Washington's policy has not achieved its desired goal—namely, putting an end to the Cuban Revolution.

In a world in which the Cold War has ended and the United States has reached understandings with its former enemies, I see no sense in mantaining this position with the largest Caribbean island, he said. He added that Ernesto Perez Balladares' government holds the position that this problem must be resolved between the two countries.

For the former president of the PRD Executive Committee, relations of friendship and solidarity between Panama and Cuba are very important.

Escobar recalled that at the most difficult moment of the negotiations on the Torrijos-Carter Canal Treaties, which were signed on 7 September 1977, "it was the Cuban people who most eagerly and selflessly helped us."

He said: "It was Cuban President Fidel Castro and the late Yugoslav leader Josip Broz Tito who advised General Omar Torrijos to remain very calm and to maintain a serious and profound dialogue with the U.S. authorities."

The former rector of the University of Panama then outlined the principle goals of the new administration's foreign policy: To strengthen Panama's international presence as much as possible and to improve relations with the United States on the basis of dignity, mutual respect, and self-determination.

Escobar also mentioned strengthening ties with Latin America; joining NAFTA, while relying on Mexico for help; joining the Rio Group; boosting continental solidarity; and reestablishing relations with Cuba at the highest level as soon as possible.

Regarding Central America, he said political ties will be maintained, although he considered it unstrategic to link the economic interests of this country to the subregion, which is predominantly agricultural.

He listed the four national priorities of the Perez Balladares government: To fight unemployment, to draft health programs that take into account the needs of the people, to provide access to education for all, and to safeguard the lives of citizens.

Government To Sign Tlatelolco Treaty

PA3008001194 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 2141 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] Havana, 29 Aug (PL)—Cuba today announced its decision to sign the Tlatelolco Treaty banning nuclear weapons, but it warned about the harassment and the blockade policy on the island by the world's main nuclear power.

Sources of the Cuban Foreign Relations Ministry confirmed to PRENSA LATINA that Brazilian President Itamar Franco was informed of the resolution in an open letter sent by Cuban President Fidel Castro, because the South American country has shown interest in the issue and because of its belief in the seriousness of the Cuban commitments.

Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina, who is visiting that South American country, today delivered the letter in Brazil during the meeting he held with Franco.

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At the same time, Cuba informed the Mexican Foreign Secretariat of the decision, taking into account shared interests and the fact that Mexico has consistently supported the Cuban positions on this issue.

The Cuban Government noted the significance this step has for the Caribbean nation, a step taken in accordance with its pursuit of peace in the region and because of its efforts to act toward facilitating the rapprochement among the Latin American peoples and because of its interest in integrating the region.

Robaina also said that this is taking place at a time when the world's first nuclear power is escalating to unprecedented levels its harassment toward Cuba and is insisting on forcefully remaining on part of the Cuban national territory—in reference to the Guantanamo Naval Base—through which its vessels, loaded with these types of weapons, navigate.

In the future, this problem must be regarded as a condition for our country to remain part of this treaty, states the letter delivered to President Franco, as PRENSA LATINA learned.

The source recalled that the United States is improperly using the Guantanamo Base with all sorts of military objectives in mind, not excluding nuclear objectives.

In short, Cuba expressed its confidence in the future of Latin America, "including the noble objectives of Tlatelolco," adding that with the signing of the treaty, it again shows its willingness to incorporate itself into the Latin American community at the price of even making large sacrifices.

Spokesman Reports Robaina's Tour of Latin America

PA2908031594 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 2014 GMT 27 Aug 94

[Text] Havana, 27 Aug (PL)—Foreign Ministry Spokesman Miguel Alfonso said here today Cuba's intense activities in foreign policy and the increase of cooperation with several Latin American countries demonstrate the island's alleged isolation is false. The official analyzed this point at a news conference on Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina's tour of Latin America. Alfonso concluded the tour can be described as very successful, based on the agreements that have been reached and the exchange of opinions at the highest level with the authorities of the nations that have been visited.

Alfonso stressed the relevance of the agreements on hydrocarbons and forestry signed with Ecuador, an important petroleum producer. He also announced other agreements will be announced with Bolivia in the diplomatic, education, sports, tourism, and air transportation fields.

He said the visit to Ecuador, the country where Robaina began the tour on 18 August, was very productive from the political standpoint and due to contacts established with businessmen interested in conducting business with the Caribbean island.

Alfonso said in Chile, a nation with which relations are maintained at the consular level, the Cuban foreign minister held important meetings with the executive and high-ranking leaders of the Chamber of Deputies and Senate, to whom he explained Cuba's situation and its positions.

Robaina's trip to Chile will also produce a positive assessment in the increase of trade relations, which were suspended after the coup d'etat that overthrew the constitutional government of Salvador Allende in 1973, the spokesman said.

The official said the visit to Bolivia has been equally favorable. It will end today with brief stays in Cochabamba and Santa Cruz, on the border with Brazil, where he will arrive tomorrow.

Robaina's trip through the region will continue tomorrow in Brazil and will also include Panama and Costa Rica.

Alfonso said the country has also received important visits during this same period, such as that of Liliana Canale, Peruvian industry, tourism, integration, and international trade negotiations minister, with whom a partial agreement on the development of bilateral economic relations will be signed.

He added agricultural cooperation agreements were signed during this week's visit by Namibian Prime Minister Hage Geingob, and steps were taken to strengthen ties between the two countries.

Bolivian People's Solidarity Noted During Robaina's Visit

FL2908144094 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Aug 94

[From the "NTV" newscast]

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina will arrive in Brazil tonight, the fourth stop on the Latin American tour which has already taken him to Ecuador, Chile, and Bolivia. The Cuban leader met Bolivian President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada and parliamentary authorities during his stay in La Paz. He also signed six agreements in the fields of foreign relations, sports, education, air transportation, and tourism. Another outstanding aspect of Robaina's visit was that of the expressions of solidarity that he received from day one of his arrival. Hundreds of Bolivians welcomed him at the airport, chanting: Cuba is not alone! This chanting was repeated during all of Robaina's public appearances. Of a particularly emotive nature was Robaina's meeting with Cubans residing in Bolivia and members of the Student Federation from all the state universities of that South American nation.

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Robaina Meets Brazilian Intellectuals, Artists

FL2908173394 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Aug 94

[From the "NTV" newscast]

[Text] Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina has inaugurated a family doctor's office in Niteroi Municipality, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. This Cuban experience will benefit approximately 1,000 low-income families. Robaina also met Solidarity with Cuba Movement activists on the second day of his visit to Brazil. Robaina later met Rio de Janeiro officials, intellectuals, and artists—including Oscar Niemeyer, an architect and Rio's secretary of culture, and Ruben Estefalco, an actor who sent warm greetings to the Cuban people.

CTC Cadres Meet To Prepare for Economic Assemblies

FL2908214294 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 29 Aug 94

[From the "National Radio News"]

[Text] In the provinces of Holguin, Las Tunas, Guantanamo, and Santiago de Cuba, the cadres of the Cuban Workers Federation [CTC] and their unions have held preliminary meetings in preparation for the new phase of economic efficiency assemblies, which are to begin on 10 September.

During this new process, the workers are to analyze economic management of their workplaces, social security contributions, support for new measures to correct the economy, and support for food and sugar production.

Pedro Ross Leal, secretary general of the CTC, stated that the previously held assemblies did not reach their goals, that there are still agreements to be implemented, as well as strengthening of the agricultural process, especially in the sugarcane sector.

On 29 August, TRABAJADORES newspaper published an editorial analyzing the significance of the economic efficiency assemblies in which workers actively participate in the debates and decisions affecting vital problems at their workplaces. The commentary, entitled, "Method of Identifying and Resolving Problems," points out that the struggle for economic efficiency is today identified with the political objectives of defending the power of the working class and preserving the achievements of the Revolution. The editorial points out that the economic efficiency assemblies should not be seen as just a union activity, but as an integral method of identifying and resolving problems.

TRABAJADORES mentions that among the deficiencies detected during the last economic efficiency assemblies were the generality of some administrators' reports and their unavailability to workers in time to be analyzed. Finally, the editorial calls for equilibrium through mechanisms such as these assemblies, and integration of workers' political, productive, and economic conscience.

Air Brigade Pilots Discuss Combat Readiness

FL3008012894 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Aug 94

[Report by Marta Moreno from the "NTV" newscast]

[Text] Ongoing training, talent, and good health are required to be a pilot, as well as physical exercise, academic classes, practice in the land trainer, and ultimately, flying.

[Begin recording] [First unidentified pilot] Each flight is different, a new experience. All pilots get frightened. In Angola, we had good scares, and also in Cuba during training flights. However, one gets used to everything in life. [end recording]

The Casas Air Brigade of Playa Giron Guard has the mission of protecting the borders during peacetime—that is, to keep the aircraft of other nations inside the flight corridors. During wartime, the brigade is in charge of repelling any air or naval landing. To accomplish this task, they receive excellent combat preparation.

The most experienced pilots train the initiates. The San Antonio base trains young people of Pinar del Rio Province and the Central Region.

[Begin recording] [Second unidentified pilot] I compare pilots with high-performance sportsmen. What we feel training on land, we also feel in the air. Luckily, I have not had any bad experiences. [end recording]

To keep the MIG airplanes operational in the midst of this economic situation is not easy. However, the operative technical unit comprises a group of specialists who put their intelligence to work to find alternatives to technical problems; and so far, the results are satisfactory as observed during the report.

The Casas Air Brigade in San Antonio is celebrating its 35th anniversary. During this time, it has trained an important number of pilots who have participated in numerous missions. They currently have better trained personnel with broader experience ready to defend the skies of Cuba.

'Straight Talk' Reporters Discuss Taxes

FL2508135194 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 24 Aug 94

["Straight Talk" program with Renato Recio of TRABAJADORES newspaper and host Osvaldo Rodriguez of BOHEMIA magazine]

[Text] [Rodriguez] Renato, I believe that certain realities, the recent events that took place in Havana City, have kept us from commenting on economic problems, which are the essential problems in Cuba today. I propose that today we broach the subject of taxes—the law

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has been approved by the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP]—to analyze how much this affects Cubans, now that we need to reduce the excess circulation, as well as to create a future and true institutional foundation for finances in Cuba.

[Recio] I like the way that you have expressed that, Osvaldo, because those measures, many of them, must be seen as emergency measures. Surely, the problem of excess circulation is almost a problem of life or death. You either resolve it or you cannot resolve any other problem. As you said, this has to do with planing an economic model that will be different in many elements from the one we have had during the last few years. Now then, the problem of taxes has always been very controversial. I want to speak, specifically, about a salary tax. As for the taxes on income, in general, taxes on utilities, other tax systems, and other contributions there is more agreement, there is minimal debate. But on the salary taxes there has been a great deal of debate and lack of consensus. In that situation we reached the final sessions of the ANPP. Some Comrades, deputies, thought that it was appropriate to implement the tax, right there and then. Others thought that it was not the right time.

[Rodriguez] But this debate began before that, at the parliaments in the workplace. This same debate.

[Recio] Yes, but let me say that [pauses] you know that I work for the newspaper TRABAJADORES, therefore I have quite a bit of information. At the parliaments in the workplace that issue was debated along with other issues. It was not an issue that had priority. At the same time, the parliaments in the workplace did point out that in general the workers were not too keen, there was a certain degree of rejection, about a salary tax. In any case, as I was saying, the ANPP reached the decision, I believe very wisely, as proposed by Fidel that the principle remain in the law; that the potential for taxing salaries remain in the law, but would not be implemented at this time. I think that was wise because I believe that people sometimes analyze problems statically. There are people that see the issue of salaries in Cuba, which are relatively low, let us say nominally low, as something definite and finished. I am one of those people that believe that salaries in Cuba are going to change very much in the future. Not as a consequence of salary reforms, everyone receiving an increase in their salaries, but as a consequence of the economic movement, especially in those sectors that have began to revive. Wherever measures are implemented to increase production and efficiency, there, necessarily, we will see movement in salaries. We will see this grow and it will, slowly, affect salary policies in Cuba. Now then, without a doubt, relatively speaking, salaries are low.

[Rodriguez] Yes, I like that term—relatively low—that you use. I was thinking, many times salaries are compared with those of nearby countries, especially with those in the United States. It is our nearest and most powerful neighbor. We see salaries in the United States as very high. In reality, salaries in the United States are the highest in the world. When you analyze the structure of the expenditures of an average U.S family you see that the biggest expenditures are: housing, health care, and social security. I believe that it is very good that you speak about nominal and real salaries. Many times we do not consider that through health care and social security we are receiving a salary as well.

[Recio] What is a salary? A salary is a monetary formula that workers have to participate in the distribution of the wealth produced by society. In Cuba the system that we have had, the socialist system that we wanted to build, created a platform through which social consumption—we call social consumption that which reaches the worker without the direct participation of work nor salary, that which everyone receives, things that are free, subsidized prices and a great number of other things—made social consumption have a higher level of importance than a salary, or at least it was of the same importance. What is the tendency that is being followed now and that will be followed in the future? To reduce the portion of social consumption with regard to direct consumption that comes from one's work and salary. Therefore, we must understand that the proportion of the role of the salary in the area of consumption is something that is going to change in the future, especially, benefiting an important part of the salaries.

[Rodriguez] You have such a great deal of understanding about this issue, do you agree that your salary should be taxed or that you should contribute with a salary tax?

[Recio] I agree with the idea that the unions expressed, which was perfectly understood by Fidel. The idea states that currently a salary tax would not be appropriate, it would have to be analyzed very well. There are some very low salaries. There are a great number of workers earning between 100 and 140 pesos per month. It is true that taxes would always be proportional to the salary earned, but I believe this is not the time nor is it the definite solution to Cuba's great problem; this great problem being the excess money in circulation. Hear me out, there is a salary tax but there is also the contribution to social security, there I have a different opinion. What should the workers do to confront the problem of contributing to social security?

[Rodriguez] Before you proceed to that, do you think that it would be fair to tax a worker who is already contributing to society with his production. When I refer to worker I mean a man who produces a material product or a service and due to this, there is a benefit. He then receives a part of this benefit, in the form of a salary. There is another part, he contributes to society. Would it be fair to tax the salary of that worker who produces, not like others who receive money for working in an office or for any other work that is not specifically productive? Would it be fair to tax that worker when he already contributes?

[Recio] The problem of making differences between a worker and one that does not work directly in productive

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tasks or is not as important as certain workers, is something that should be resolved through their salaries. The worker that produces or contributes more should earn more money. The problem of contributing to all the expenses of society, through taxes, is a problem that concerns us all, no matter whether you are a farmer, a worker, or whatever you maybe.

[Rodriguez interrupting] Well, I do not agree with you on that point.

[Recio] Well, that is my opinion. When you work, you contribute by adding the value of your work to that of that product produced. You receive a salary that, obviously, does not have the same value as what you have contributed. Society has many expenses, expenses such as defense—workers are very concerned that the nation be protected—internal expenses, health care expenses, education expenses, cultural expenses, and expenses of other types. Everyone should contribute to those expenses. I do not know if we have enough time but I believe that we should broach the issue of contributing to social security. When you contribute you are helping the nation. The nation uses that contribution for a great number of things, public administration and other things that we are all aware of. When you contribute to social security and you are a worker, you are going to contribute to something that is for your own benefit. You will, sooner or later, retire. You could benefit from some kind of subsidy, when you are ill or you have an accident. There are many circumstances through which you could benefit from social security, therefore, you should contribute, that is my opinion.

[Rodriguez] Currently there is an amount that goes to social security, taken from the salary of the worker.

[Recio] No, No, that amount, currently, is paid by the enterprise not by the worker. Currently, the worker does not contribute in any form to social security. Now then, here we have tried, for a long time, to have the enterprise's contribution resolve the problems of social security. However, what has happened here, Osvaldo, is that the budget deficit is growing. That means that the money that is being paid into social security is not sufficient. Currently, the deficit is over 500 million pesos and it is still growing. It is well known that social security spends more money each year.

[Rodriguez] Yes, life expectancy grows each year and with it the average age of the Cuban people; the Cuban population is older.

[Recio] Yes, more expenses like medical certificates, accidents, and other things of this nature increase costs. All these things cost money, even temporarily, but they do occur and they do cost money. The reality of life is as follows—remember that we are talking about finances, this is a term that we hardly ever used in Cuba before....

[Rodriguez, interrupting] Before, during the capitalist times, you would have to pay into the social security till. This idea is something similar to that which we had back then, the idea of contributing to social security so that later that money could revert to you and to your family.

[Recio] With the enormous difference that before those tills were stolen and emptied. What ended up happening is that when certain sectors of our people would retire they would end up getting 60 cents a month. That was what happened back then. In any case, if we are correcting Cuba's economy, in light of the new circumstances, and the financial and budget systems are going to reach a definite and important dimension, there is no doubt that we will have to consider how workers can contribute to social security from their salaries. Social security is something that is going to benefit them.

[Rodriguez] Thank you, Renato.

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

Caricom Foreign Ministers Meet To Discuss Haiti

FL2908162594 Kingston JBC Network in English 1230 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] Caricom [Caribbean Community] foreign ministers and [words indistinct] are meeting in Jamaica today and tomorrow to discuss the region's role in the proposed UN-sponsored military intervention in troubled Haiti. According to a CANA report, senior policymakers from across the Caribbean began arriving here since yesterday. Acting Secretary General of the OAS [words indistinct] and senior UN representative [words indistinct] to discuss the implementation of the UN resolution which reaffirms the commitment of member-states to restore the democracy under (?former) President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in Haiti. The UN resolution also deals with the formation of a multilateral force established to [word indistinct] a further advance into the country, as well as to mandate and operate the UN mission in Haiti which will assist with reconstruction. Most Caricom governments have said their troops would not participate [words indistinct] in the event of a military invasion of Haiti.

[Kingston RJR Network in English at 1200 GMT on 29 August reports: "Caricom officials, headed by the chairman of the regional security system—Prime Minister Erskine Sandiford, of Barbados—will be meeting in Kingston today and tomorrow to discuss the region's role in the proposed invasion of Haiti." RJR notes: "The meeting will be addressed by U.S. Under Secretary of State Strobe Talbott, Deputy Defense Secretary John Deutch, and other senior U.S. officials."]

Military Representatives Attend Meeting

FL2908175294 Kingston RJR Network in English 1700 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Excerpt] Regional foreign ministers, including Jamaica's Dr. Paul Robertson, are [words indistinct] in

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Kingston about the region's role in a proposed invasion of Haiti. The meeting, being chaired by Dr. Robertson, also has in attendance representatives of regional military and police forces. [passage omitted]

Ministers To Meet U.S. Officials

FL2908231994 Castries HTS Caribvision Television in English 1945 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] Delegations from a number of Caricom countries are meeting for two days in Jamaica to discuss Haiti. The meeting, which started this morning, was expected to clarify the legal, technical, and financial issues arising from the United Nations' resolution to invade Haiti.

[Begin recording] [First unidentified speaker] Between the 4th and 7th of July, the heads of government of the Caribbean Community meeting in Barbados, as part of its summit's agenda, reviewed the situation in Haiti. At the end of that review, the heads of government expressed clear concern that notwithstanding the numerous efforts of the international community, the legal regime in in Haiti has refused to relinquish control and has failed to honor the commitments entered into inthe Governor's Island accord regarding the return of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to Haiti. [applause]

[Second unidentified speaker] I need not tell you what a painful moment in history this is for us, and a moment which I am sure we all understand requires of us to decide our responsibilities. [end recording]

The delegates at this crucial meeting are also expected to meet with top officials from Canada and the United States tomorrow on this issue. Among the United States' team will be the Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott and Deputy Defense Secretary John Deutch.

Haiti

Liberation Theologian Close to Aristide Killed

FL2908203294 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] The first news today is the murder of a Catholic priest last night in Port-au-Prince. It is Father Jean-Marie Vincent, member of the congregation of Monfortins. According to the first information collected, the priest was allegedly murdered at the entrance to his residence, the official residence of the Monfortins, not far from the Saint Louis Roi de France Church, in Turgeau.

The 49-year-old priest, considered one of those responsible for the liberation theology movement in Haiti, was returning home to Turgeau when he was shot by unidentified armed individuals who fled. Father Jean-Marie Vincent, a member of the Monfortin priests, was one of the principal founders of the peasant movement, "Heads Together" [Mouvman Paysan Tet Ansam], disbanded in 1987 following the slaughter of hundreds by rival peasant movements, and including former Duvalierist militiamen linked to the local oligarchy.

According to the HAITIAN PRESS AGENCY, Father Jean-Marie Vincent was returning home at around 0030 GMT last night when armed men, lying in wait, coldly killed him with a blast from an automatic weapon. Even if the exact causes of this murder are still unknown, they can only be political, given the close friendship between Father Jean-Marie Vincent and President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, a religious source close to the victim indicated to the HAITIAN PRESS AGENCY last night.

According to the agency, Father Jean-Marie Vincent was a known figure of the church in Haiti. In 1975, he launched several movements in the northwest region, including the Jean-Rabel Peasant Movement, Heads Together. He became director of Caritas in Cap-Haitian in 1990, a post he filled until September 1991.

U.S. Sources: Cuban Crisis To Have No Influence on Invasion Plan

FL2908201894 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] The crisis between the United States and Cuba is having no effect on U.S. determination toward Haiti, according to a high-ranking official of the U.S. State Department. What is going on in Cuba will have no influence over the United States' determination to invade Haiti, if this is necessary to drive the Army authorities out of power. If the Haitian leaders think that what is going on in Cuba will have the effect of dissuading the Clinton administration, they are making a serious misjudgment, the assistant secretary of political affairs stated on 28 August. Peter Tarnoff, interviewed by television station NBS, revealed yesterday that the United States, in applying UN Resolution 940, continues to prepare for a military intervention in Haiti, in the event it is necessary.

High-Level U.S. Employees Confirm Invasion Plans

FL3008003494 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 25 Aug 94

[Text] U.S. Government civil servants and political analysts assert that the plan for a multilateral invasion of Haiti under U.S. command is moving along, even though public opinion seems to be turned toward Cuba, according to a dispatch from the Inter-Press Service [IPS]. Steps toward the invasion of Haiti continue to make themselves felt, whereas a final resolution has not yet been made, asserted a U.S. Government state employee who wishes to remain anonymous.

It should be noted that Resolution 940 of the UN Security Council, approved in July 1994, has authorized the deployment of a multinational force in Haiti under U.S. command to restore democracy and President-in-Exile Jean-Bertrand Aristide to Haiti. IPS pointed out

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that Argentina and four other nations in the Caribbean have refrained from participating in this invasion. The U.S. state employees asserted, however, that 20 other nations announced their participation in the UN peacekeeping operation, which will marshal about 6,000 soldiers to replace the intervention forces.

Furthermore, certain high-level state employees told Washington that a UN delegation will try to persuade the Haitian Armed Forces commanded by General Cedras to leave government peacefully. The high-level employees cited by IPS perceived this last mission as an ultimate effort by the United Nations to resolve the Haitian crisis.

Jonassaint Government on 'Dollarization Phenomenon'

FL2908211594 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 26 Aug 94

[Excerpt] The Jonassaint government has this week issued communiques aimed at calming the Haitian economists who are completely disturbed at the inflationary spiral now observed in the national economy. Following is the contents of a HAITIAN PRESS AGENCY [AHP] dispatch dated 25 August: Due to the frequent use of U.S. currency in local economic transactions, including purchase and sale of land and cars, house and apartment rentals and so on, the current government makes a point of reminding everyone that the gourde remains the currency for transactions in Haiti.

Financial experts contacted by AHP asserted that the dollarization phenomenon observed today in Haiti appears in countries where economic agents wishing to protect their assets prefer to keep them in a strong currency like the U.S. dollar, rather than in depreciated local currency. They pointed out that the government measure will have very little effect, insofar as transactions will be made at the exchange market's daily rate. [passage omitted]

Government-in-Exile Presents Reconstruction Plan

FL3008003794 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] During the economic summit on Haiti that took place last week in Paris, President Aristide's government team presented a plan called Strategy of Economic and Social Reconstruction, for which the government solicits donors and sponsors for the sum of $800 million. The plan prepared by economic experts was discussed in Paris by representatives of the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the Inter-American Development Bank. No official response regarding the requests expressed in this plan has yet been provided.

As it was presented, this document represents a reformulation of the economic policy of the Aristide government, which hopes to reduce state influence in the country's economic activities and reinforce the capacities of the private sector. This plan also recommends accelerating the process of decentralization recommended by the 1987 Constitution.

It should be noted that the government-in-exile invites a preliminary mission of sponsors to visit Haiti during the early days of the constitutional authorities' return. In this respect, the government calls on Haiti's friends and sponsors to implement, 30 days after its return, the projects presented in the plan. Among the factors planned for the Strategy of Economic and Social Reconstruction, the government ousted in September 1991 considers reducing the Army's strength, which would decrease the state budget. From 7,000 men, the Army would shrink to 1,500 members. The dismissed military could, however, be integrated into the new police included in the plan. The plan proposes cutting public administration by half. Of its 45,000 members, 24,000 would be dismissed with guaranteed salaries and reintegration into the private sector.

However, in public administration, the plan favors putting into private hands some public companies such as EDH [Electricity of Haiti] and Teleco [Tele-Communication]. This plan also provides for substantial aid for the private sector, especially the export sector. In this respect, the government-in-exile asks its North American partners for preferential export rates by eliminating, for a ten-year period, the value-added tax for the manufacturing industry. Regarding import, the plan considers eliminating tariffs on imports except for products such as rice, beans, and corn—which would be taxed by half—resulting, according to the experts, in elimination of the black market and corruption. The plan should also favor judicial reform and reform of the social security system.

Compensation to the victims of political unrest is also being considered by this plan called Strategy of Economic and Social Reconstruction, presented to Haiti's sponsors on Friday 26 August in Paris by the Haitian Government in exile.

New Group Seeks Resignation of Protagonists

FL3008003694 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 25 Aug 94

[Text] A new political group has been formed. The Front for a National Consensus Among All Haitians [Front Pour un Consensus National Entre tous les Haitiens, FCNH] held its first news conference on 24 August. The baby is not handicapped, FNCH said aloud. Jacques Saint-Louis, spokesman for the front, proposed the resignation of the two protagonists of the crisis: General

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Cedras and President Aristide. According to FCNH, those two dignitaries are responsible for the suffering of the people.

[Begin Jean-Louis recording, in Creole] We people's organizations have taken the responsibility of meeting with the press so we can advise the general public that we, the undersigned citizens, have peremptorily made the decision to ask the two protagonists to give the country a chance—I mean the 30 September [1991] and 16 December [1990] supporters. [end recording]

The country's elite were not spared. Saint-Louis criticized the behavior of some political leaders who do not have a valid plan for the country. Saint-Louis announced that FCNH remains committed to resuming the struggle set in motion on 7 February 1986. FCNH combines over 20 people's organizations and associations.

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Zedillo Comments on Final Election Results

PA3008023794 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Aug 94

[From the "Evening News Panorama" newscast]

[Text] Today, Ernesto Zedillo received the final results of the 21 August elections through a report of the National Executive Committee of the PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party]. Reporter Rosie Ahuatzin Vasquez is at the studios to provide more information. Good afternoon Rosie.

[Ahuatzin] Good afternoon listeners. Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon is getting ready for five days of vacation, but prior to this, he clarified some things about these results. He warned that to talk about fraud against democracy is to lie and to try to diminish the will of the electorate, which voted for a clear and convincing mandate in favor of change, peace, and harmony. He said no one should feel offended if he is in the minority, but at the same time, he said the majority should not be guilty of gloating. The democracy to which we aspire, he said, does not wear out in one day. Instead, he said, it needs all the political forces of the nation.

Ernesto Zedillo told those who are challenging the electoral process to document their disagreements, and if they cannot do so, then they should accept with democratic maturity the free, lawful, and honest decision of the majority. To speak of fraud, he said, is to lie, to make excuses for defeats, and to ignore the real reasons for insufficient popular support.

[Begin Zedillo recording] Citizens know that those who today challenge the elections are those who had disqualified them even before they were held. One cannot participate in elections just to see if one wins and then to challenge them if one does not win. Democracy demands integrity, regardless of the electoral results. The new democratic culture of Mexican society demands proof, not slander. It demands evidence, not rumors. It demands political responsibility and ethical consistency, not lies. Democracy entails civic courage to win and to govern but also to accept when one does not win. [end recording]

[Ahuatzin] Ernesto Zedillo reiterated he will govern for all Mexicans, indicating he is aware that the will of the people is wise. He denied citizens do not know what they want. Their vote, he added, was well-reasoned, and they want justice, well-being, dialogue, tolerance, peace, and harmony. Mexico, Zedillo said, does not need to nor does it want to delegate its moral authority to self-proclaimed judges, because ours is a country of laws and institutions. The elected candidate emphasized that those who opted for other candidates are not excluded from the construction of a prosperous Mexico, because they are also called to unite to deal with the backwardness and the causes of poverty that have led to conflicts such as that in Chiapas.

[Begin Zedillo recording] In conflicts such as that in Chiapas, the only solution is the one that comes from dialogue, negotiation, and peace. No solution other than consensus, unity, and understanding is possible. [end recording]

[Ahuatzin] Zedillo Ponce de Leon insisted that it is erroneous to claim, without proof, that government programs are used for electoral influence peddling, adding that it is even worse to suggest that in order for there to be greater equality in the electoral processes, the government should stop implementing effective social development programs. In concluding his message to the PRI National Executive Committee gathered in the Presidents Room at PRI headquarters, he said this party wants to strengthen its democratic life and that he, as president-elect now and as president later, does not want either a state that will take over the party or a party that owns the state. This was Ernesto Zedillo's reaction when he learned the electoral results.

Salinas Comments

PA3008022494 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Report by Juan Hallon, from the "Evening News Panorama" newscast; passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Mexico has strengthened its democracy by having confirmed that the road of the Mexicans is the road of law, peace, and harmonious development.

This was stated by President Carlos Salinas de Gortari during the ceremony to commemorate the 57th anniversary of the creation of the Federal Electricity Commission.

At this event, which took place in the Adolfo Lopez Mateo Room of the Los Pinos official residence, Salinas said that the unprecedented voter turnout in the 21 August elections confirmed that a democratic process is going on in Mexico.

[Salinas] "We have strengthened our democracy. This has been confirmed by the unprecedented voter tournout in these past elections. The people and the institutions won, because it has been confirmed that the Mexicans have chosen the road of law, peace, and harmonious development."

He also said that the efforts of all the Mexicans have defeated the rumors spread by a few people who questioned the strength of the institutions and the nation. This is what Salinas said:

[Salinas] "We have built together what we now have. Our common effort has been worthwhile. When at times a few people questioned the strength of our nation, many others, millions, went to the polls; when some people acting in bad faith spread rumors and those of little faith

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believed them, millions of fellow countrymen proved them wrong with their massive voting on 21 August."

This has been a great election and a great show of political civility, because Mexico is a great fatherland that wants democracy.

[Salinas] "This is the size of our republic. This is the magnitude of our grand nation. This must be remembered not only as a great election but also as a great lesson the Mexican people have taught people in and out of the country. This has been a great lesson of political civility, of trust in ourselves, of democracy. They have given everybody this lesson, and for this reason, we acknowledge the millions of Mexicans who compose this exceptional nation. The physical and political effort carried out has been worthwhile."

Now, he added, we Mexicans have the task of consolidating our economic recovery, of strengthening structural changes that give more opportunities to more Mexicans, of integrating ourselves to the dynamics of the world economy and strengthening the domestic market, of improving our solidarity by fighting poverty and helping more those who have less, and, especially, of consolidating an achievement that is a product of the responsibility of our citizens: democracy.

In another event at the same room, President Salinas said that an electoral process that represented a definite victory of politics over irrationality has concluded. He said this while closing the Special Congress of the National Peasant Confederation.

Salinas said that this took place in 1994, a year of complications during which the people decided in favor of dialogue and institutions.

[Salinas] "We must remember that in other places and in other nations, similar situations resulted in hardened government systems. Here, instead of erecting walls, we decided to open ourselves to democracy; instead of exercising coercion to face the violence generated in Chiapas, we proposed political negotiations and an honorable peace. In the face of demands from some for a more rigid government, we decided in favor of full exercise of liberty and dialogue. We placed reason and calm ahead of the use of force."

Salinas told the confederation members at Los Pinos that the elections were exceptional because more than 77 percent of the people registered to vote actually voted, and this is an unprecedented figure nationally and internationally. He said there were two reasons for this. First, President Salinas said, the people trusted that their votes would be respected; and second, the people wanted to defend, with deeds and legally, the future of the nation. He said that peace was the winner in the 21 August elections, because all the votes, regardless of what party they were for, were votes for peace and institutionality.

[Salinas] "Everybody received confirmation of the Mexicans' faith in themselves, in their fortitude, and in their exceptional attributes. With the force of politics, we reaffirmed our will to change, to be better, to have more justice, liberty, democracy, and hope for a better future. Those who believe that the people voted out of fear are wrong: Scared people do not vote: they stay home."

Salinas said that through a political dialogue and calls for common sense and calm during the exercise of power and though the people's response to this exercise, the Mexican people will remain united to continue working based on plurality. The presence of the people at the polls made evident that there is an alert, thoughtful, and clear political culture that is committed to legality, the president said.

PRD's Cardenas Not Planning To Retire

PA3008013894 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Aug 94

[From the "ACIR Radio News" newscast]

[Text] Cuauhtemoc Cardenas Solorzano, presidential candidate of the Party of the Democratic Revolution [PRD], explained today he is not planning to retire from the struggle for democracy, though he hinted of this possibility during his 27 August speech in Mexico City's El Zocalo Square. He said he will continue his political career, resorting to all legal resources allowed by law to demand what we have been demanding all along: the truth of the elections.

Cardenas said he would demand the annulment of the elections should there not be a clear explanation; he made this statement during a news conference to which he arrived late by more than an hour. He added he will begin a tour of the country in Morelia, Michoacan State, on 4 September to explain his position on the 21 August elections and to meet with those who are willing to defend legality.

In addition, Cardenas said he was interested in meeting with President Carlos Salinas to talk about several issues, particularly the issue he called the search for electoral honesty.

IFE Reports PRI Wins Majority in Senate

PA2908135294 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0651 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Excerpts] Mexico City, 28 Aug (NOTIMEX)—Mexican election authorities today confirmed that Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon is the virtual president-elect of Mexico by winning the elections last Sunday, 21 August—elections in which 77.73 percent of all elegible voters cast ballots. [passage omitted]

Sunday night, upon the resumption of the permanent sessions that began last Wednesday, Arturo Nunez, director general of the Federal Electoral Institute [IFE], presented to the General Council a report on the complete and final election returns of last Sunday's elections. The vote count of the general elections "was held as

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scheduled and without incident" in the 300 district councils, Nunez announced.

Reports indicate that the PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Farty] will have a majority in the Senate and Chamber of Deputies, as well as in terms of local representatives.

In the elections for the Senate, the PRI won in 31 states and in Mexico City, garnering a majority of 64 seats. Meanwhile, the PAN [National Action Party] obtained 24 seats, and the PRD [Party of the Democratic Revolution] obtained the remaining eight seats.

The General Council session continued at IFE Headquarters in Mexico City to determine the number of deputy seats obtained by each party and whether the parties met the requisite of obtaining 1.5 percent of the national vote.

In the elections for the Assembly of Representatives of the Federal District—the capital—IFE noted that the PRI won a majority in 38 of the 40 districts while the PAN won in the other two districts. The 28 remaining seats of the Assembly of Representatives, which is defined by the top minority, is divided up among four parties, headed by the PAN with 12 and the PRD with 10. [passage omitted]

Zedillo Promises Rural Economic Growth

PA2908183694 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 29 Aug 94

[From the "Early Morning" newscast]

[Text] Virtual president-elect Ernesto Zedillo, has inaugurated the special National Peasant Confederation [CNC] National Congress. Gerardo Segura accompanied him and filed this report:

[Begin recording] [Zedillo] Let me make this clear: Referring to what others are saying, ours is not a frivolous victory but, rather, a victory at the polls—a victory of having certainty to stay the course, of putting the sacrifices we have made to good use, and of reaping the fruits of the Mexican people's struggle. [applause]

[Segura] Exactly. The future president knows that Mexico will present great challenges. Promises are not being forgotten and will have to be translated into action.

[Zedillo] Our promise is to promote economic growth based on productive investment and to guide this growth in a way that it creates many more jobs and ensures better wages and income for Mexico's workers and peasants.

[Segura] In his first meeting with peasants following his victory at the polls, Ernesto Zedillo talked of actions that need to be undertaken.

[Zedillo] We are going to work tirelessly to allow dialogue and negotiation—never violence—to prevail in resolving problems. [applause]

[Segura] During the inauguration of the special CNC Congress, which was presided over by the Institutional Revolutionary Party [PRI] candidate, the spirit and hope of growth in the countryside emerged again.

[CNC leader Hugo Araujo] That is why we voted for Ernesto Zedillo, because of his program of change, the future, and a commitment to Mexico's countryside. We voted for him because he was the only candidate with a real program to help lead rural society into the 21st century.

[Segura] The event, attended by more than 5,000 peasants, was used to reiterate the position the PRI must adopt regarding the congress. President Carlos Salinas de Gortari will close the CNC Congress on Monday at Los Pinos Presidential Residence. [end recording]

Flores Olea: Election Essential to Democracy

PA3008044994 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 25 Aug 94 p 17

[Commentary by Victor Flores Olea, president of the National Council for Culture and the Arts and former deputy secretary of foreign relations: "The Tasks of Mexican Democracy"]

[Text] The 21 August event is essential to Mexico's democratic progress. Beyond the irregularities that surely occurred, and which occur in every electoral process, the purity of the elections once again proved the fallacy of the argument that denies the Mexican people's capability to live in democracy.

Here is more, however. It must be admitted that this event was essentially the result of society's unpostponable demand for pure and legal elections. The most recent electoral reforms would have been meaningless without the pressing demand of the civilian society that made them possible. Political parties and the government's proper branches fortunately helped shape the reforms. The "taking over of the elections by ordinary citizens" [ciudadanizacion] is a major and irreversible event in our political history.

All this is true, but, despite its undeniable merit, it is only part of the truth, just as the electoral process is only part of the democratic life. A sound groundwork was laid, but it is now mandatory to construct the building of democracy. Among several fundamental aspects, I will focus on two that look decisive to me. The first one deals with the nature of the government's decisions, the second with the life of genuine political parties in Mexico.

Quantitatively, the purity of the election as expressed in numbers is essential, but democracy also refers to the nature of government decisions, its qualitative aspect, and the democratic manner in which decisions are made.

The PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] received a significant majority of the votes (without overlooking

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the fact 50 percent of the voters opposed that candidate). This vote probably indicates, among other things, the need for security and the fact that the opposition candidates failed to crystallize the necessary leadership for Mexico to start on the road of alternation.

Nevertheless, it would be a mistake to believe the electoral vote is a sort of "mandate" for the country's basic guidelines to remain unchanged, for the status quo simply to continue, and for the country's social, economic, and political demands to be disregarded. It should not be overlooked that the true backdrop of the political events this year deals with demands for change that have not been met and the unpostponable need to change course in many aspects of the lives of the Mexican people.

During his campaign, Ernesto Zedillo made a number of general commitments on which he should strictly make good as president of the republic as of 1 December. Some of these commitments, for instance, the transformation of the judicial branch and the reinforcement of this branch and the legislative branch as true counterweights of the executive as well as the separation of the government and the state party, are evident. Others are less evident but no less predominant and clear. On a long list of unmet social demands, we could mention the following key ones: the need to decentralize economic and social powers; to effectively strengthen federalism; to pay attention not only to the problems of the macroeconomy but apply an economic policy that specifically can benefit individuals, families, and communities. In other words, to leave behind adjustments of their tremendous social prices involving the need for more jobs, better distribution of income, a check of the outrageous concentration of wealth, and many others of which we could think. We should include, not exclude, large social sectors in decisionmaking.

This is the true challenge Mexican democracy faces today. Based on a more than reasonable electoral process, it is now essential to strive for several essential transformations in the country's life. These are indisputable demands of Mexican society. Not only the next government's democratic nature but Mexico's governability itself depend on meeting these demands. Democracy and governability coincide at this point, as it has happened since the time of the immemorial. Otherwise, the accumulation of true problems in Mexico could lead to an outbreak, an unexpected number of new and strong political and social explosions.

The other great problem Mexican democracy faces is the formation of political parties consistent with new times and the democratic progress society attained during the 21 August elections.

This aspect surely involves the leading contending parties. The PRI, which should separate itself from the state, the PRD [Party of the Democratic Revolution], and PAN [National Action Party] will undoubtedly have to face the programmatic demands and the new sensitiveness of the current Mexican society; that is, the reconstruction of a national historic center, not just the existence of an agency and an electoral apparatus and the radical trends of Mexican liberalism and conservatism. The left and right are surely necessary for the democratic life of a country that seems to have three instead of two parties.

Briefly, these are some of the essential tasks awaiting Mexican democracy in the short and medium terms.

Column on Political Problems Facing Zedillo

PA2908172494 Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 23 Aug 94 p 37

[From the "Political Indicator" column by Carlos Ramirez: "Interrupted Transition. The Commitments of Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon"]

[Text] In July 1988, when Carlos Salinas was a presidential candidate and learned he could barely obtain a tarnished victory with 50.36 percent of the vote, his first reaction was to commit himself to political reforms that would begin by putting an end to the country's single party—at least, a single party in pragmatic terms. From that moment on, however, his administration strived to impose Ernesto Zedillo as his successor in a bid to strengthen presidentialism as a hegemonic power.

The Salinist rejection of political reform was perceived in two interesting scenarios: The Zapatist uprising that waved the banner of democracy, and the political rebellion of the national political elites trying to head a struggle for a transition to democracy while working outside the system. Faced with expectation of a political opening, President Salinas favored continued entrenchment, something that ultimately came about with Zedillo's victory this past Sunday.

There is, however, the danger of Zedillo, who lacks Salinas' political experience and intuition, clinging to victory for victory's sake, failing to assess the political message of the election results, and deciding to interrupt the political transition to reproduce what Salinas did during his five years in the country—namely, trying to recover political power the old-fashioned PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] way.

In this sense, Zedillo will be confronting not a postelection conflict but, rather, a political transitional conflict involving at least 10 points:

1. Although adjustments are being made to present the PRI presidential candidate as if he won more than 50 percent of the vote, the truth is that PRI lost its absolute majority. The fact that more than half of the Mexican people voted against the PRI will force Zedillo to listen to the demands for democratization.

2. While it is true that in elections manipulated and controlled by the government Zedillo did indeed obtain

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the largest number of votes, he cannot disregard the pressure that elite political sectors are exerting for democracy. This means that Zedillo will face political circumstances and have to negotiate with elite pressure groups on a pact for a political opening.

3. Chiapas, in terms of its significance to the entire nation, will be an important element in Zedillo's political universe. Authoritarianism may be tempted to inflict a coup de grace to the Zapatists, and there is Subcommander Marcos who has emerged as a political intellect with whom Zedillo will necessarily have to negotiate. Groups within the Party of the Democratic Revolution [PRD] did not like the National Democratic Convention [CND], but the fact that it was held prior to the elections managed to form a solid leftist front that will play a basic role in the postelectoral political transition.

4. The PRI, which had sustained serious regional setbacks during the five years of the Salinas administration, managed to consolidate itself. But it is a new PRI—a mixture of Jurassic PRI-ism, focused mainly on winning elections, and the party's neoliberal solidarity. To gain political power, Zedillo is going to lean precisely on this PRI sector, which by definition was denied any political opening, as was demonstrated in the Salinist phase.

5. Presidentialism, which had been besieged by political forces that favored democracy, now can be restructured politically. The Salinist-Zedillist tactic is to engage in political detente, but a detente stemming from a revitalized presidentialism. Political experience over the past five years, however, has confirmed the fact that presidentialism is the origin of all undemocratic authoritarianism.

6. Zedillo's victory is based on the vote cast for the status quo, as was poignantly noted Sunday evening by Enrique Krauze. Based on Zedillo's technocratic background, his interpretation of that vote will be obvious: Instead of making society head toward democracy, Zedillo will use that vote to consolidate the old pyramid structure.

7. PAN emerges in second place behind the PRI as the main ally of the Zedillo government. Like Salinas, the Zedillist project will be central-rightist. This is particularly so, because in the long run there never was an electoral debate as to whether the neoliberal project of President Salinas should continue. PAN does not seek a transition to democracy but to power.

8. While Cardenas, who needed strong election returns for the PRD, represented the possibility of a pledged transition to democracy. Meanwhile, the Salinist intention was to strap the PRD with a minimal number of votes and sidetrack it as a political force, which could become a rallying force for independent sectors bent on democracy. With less votes, the PRD will become less of a factor of democratic pressure.

9. The price that Zedillo will have to pay for this electoral triumph will be steep. In fact, Zedillo—who was never known for his original proposals, but who has always resorted to the Salinist economic plan and Colosio's intelligent political proposals—was always the hostage of greater forces. His presidency, therefore, will be characterized by that unpaid political debt.

10. For Zedillo, the votes were not for democracy but, instead, for institutionality. The vote for the PRI was a vote against the events and groups that had achieved an ideological victory for democracy. Now Zedillo will dedicate himself to rebuilding the old antidemocratic political system. Zedillo will view the returns as a vote for old-fashioned stability, rather than for a change within stability.

If the country was on its way to a transition to democracy, the 21 August vote has only altered the sequence. What follows now is a political struggle for democracy. Zedillo, who is bound to the forces that helped him win, will now have to decide between repeating the Salinist program or paving the way for a political opening.

Transition to Democracy Said 'Paralyzed'

PA2908191794 Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 24 Aug 94 p 37

[Commentary by Alvaro Arreola Ayala, sociologist and historian of the Social Research Institute of the National Autonomous University of Mexico: "Political Immobility"]

[Text] The 21 August elections did not result in a new political model. Considering the evidence of the percentages reported, direct voting does not seem to be the way to prompt a change of government in Mexico. Electoral history during this century, up to the most recent elections, has proven this. By way of a gradual transfer, the PAN [National Action Party] should win the presidency more or less by the year 2050.

At today's session, the General Council of the Federal Electoral Institute [IFE] will announce overall figures, saying that 80 percent of the citizens have chosen a totally conservative bipartisan system represented by the winning team—a PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party]-PAN team. This "victory" was the result of a strategic alliance between these forces over the past five years. It eliminated ideological differences between the two oldest parties in Mexico, which are already preparing to govern the country together in an alliance that will last beyond the year 2000.

In analyzing the 21 July elections, we must first note that it will be very difficult for the authorities to explain the party-by- party percentages when compared to the high voter turnout. In 1988, with similar percentages, the government never commented on the extent of voter participation, as it has this time. Why?

By the same token, an explanation is necessary to clarify why the PRI attained the same percentage of votes in both situations: large absenteeism (1988) and large

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turnout (1994)? What logical explanation is there for the fact that all of the special polling stations ran out of ballots before noon and the PRI won in most of them? How can we interpret the exact uniformity of the votes throughout the country? Why in more than 90 percent of the polling stations did the citizens of Oaxaca, Campeche, or Tamaulipas—citizens of different ages and occupations—all vote in the same pattern—five for the PRI, three for the PAN, and almost two for the PRD [Party of the Democratic Revolution]?

Second, it should be clear to everyone that if six years ago the 6 July 1988 elections announced the beginning of a party system, the 21 August elections marked its end. This is true for the following reasons: A) The complicity between the PAN and the PRI over the past three years has ended with the fundamental role of an independent legislative branch. It is obvious, based on the results of Sunday's elections, that the next legislature, which will again be controlled by them, will play its traditional role of submitting to the executive branch. B) The configuration of Congress, with a conservative absolute majority, will not reflect Mexico's political reality. Those of us who would like Mexico to have an active pluralistic parliamentarian life are quickly frustrated. The tactical alliance established by the PAN leadership with the Salinas administration over the past several years contributed to promote government plans and to legitimize President Carlos Salinas de Gortari. In no way did it strengthen the democratic structures the PAN at one time had demanded for the democratic exercise of power.

Finally, the transition to democracy has been paralyzed with the reemergence—according to official results—of a political culture that supposedly no longer existed. As one intellectual who supports Salinas said: The PRI's victory "has recreated continuity" (Rolando Cordera in Television Azteca, 22 August 1994)—that is, the continuity of all of the machinations, corporatism, fraud in every immaginable form, and so on.

It is obvious that Mexican society has wagered on political immobilization. Many of us, however, have serious doubts and many suspicions. The election results were a combination of fraud with the most conservative perception of change. Within this framework, any future analysis must take into account the demands of many Mexicans affected by the impact of the neoliberal economic model, the inefficiency of public services, the reduction in the standard of living, and so on. The winners' optimism could lead to social conflicts of great proportions that elections cannot measure.

Cardenism Called 'Only True Opposition Force'

PA3008043894 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 25 Aug 94 p 7

[Commentary by Rodolfo F. Pena, member of the Mexican Center for the Human Rights of Workers: "Days After"—words in italics as published]

[Text] It is absolutely true that society *spoke* at the ballot boxes last Sunday. Mexico did better than several highly industrialized countries and matched others with regard to voter turnout (given the confirmed *exemplary* democratic systems of these countries, that should be enough to reassure us that we can already look down upon the poor Third World countries). Yes, society spoke. What is not very clear yet is what exactly it said. Many have rushed to interpret its message, express their *opinions*—very accomodating ones in general—displaying a barely contained and concealed delight. What no one doubts—not even in the opposition—is the victory of Ernesto Zedillo, the man who won 50 percent of the vote, and his party.

And why that victory? Even if we look back, the situation is not that enigmatic. It has been reiterated that the political system is in its historic decline, which does not mean in any manner that it has disappeared or that it lacks the power to crush as a wounded elephant. This is what it has done, and it defended itself with all its power. It has public funds available in addition to many resources from *wealthy contributors*, and it still controls—even if it is not in an absolute manner—the electoral mechanisms. It was able to afford the luxury of nominating two presidential candidates during the same campaign (with a tragedy in the middle) and investing infinite resources in the electronic and printed media. All this was denounced from the beginning, although maybe not with enough force or convincing information, assuming they would have been available.

In addition, despite all arguments, there was only one true opposition force: the Cardenism. The National Action Party [PAN], with its long history of struggles, has ended up only contesting positions of power without showing any interest in a true change of system, and the similarity between its programs and those of its old adversary is so obvious and widely recognized that to the public eye, it has become the appendix of an appendix. As for the other small parties, one can say very little—and nothing positive—about them. This *loyal* opposition helped splendidly to divide or pulverize the vote and to attack the only adversary (I would say enemy): Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, the violent one, the one who would destabilize the country, the ally of guerrilla groups, the intransigent (giving this word a strange connotation because according to the dictionary, it means to reject what is deemed unjust, false, irrational). All the fury of former party members—and it is well-known that it tends to be of the worst type—the entire diatribe potential of the system's beneficiaries turned against Cardenas to make the fear of change a decisive element in the elections. Not one person, of course, tried to prove or even discuss such rude accusations.

There was no need: what mattered was the effect, not the veracity. However, not even with such high-powered cannons did the system's beneficiaries ever feel at ease. Thus, they were conspicuously nervous until 21 August arrived. Then, as if it were nothing at all, the usual tricks

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reappeared, tarnishing an election that could have been promising: dismissal threats against workers (and these are not the best times to lose one's job); violation of the secret ballot; transportation of voters; phony voters; and unprecedented special polling stations, which prevented thousands of people from voting.... In short, the shameful irregularities—carefully detected by the Civic Alliance and outlined in the report of the stratified sample published yesterday in LA JORNADA's "Profile" column—tarnished the elections.

Cardenas has the right and the obligation to continue being intransigent, as he said, until the election is cleared or annulled. The latter certainly sounds impudent, considering the avalanche of national and foreign verdicts supporting the purity and the remarkable agreement of results with reports and polls, including the *exit polls* conducted, for instance, in the Mezquital Valley. Votes from the PAN and smaller parties are, however, votes against the system. Therefore, we need to know how many people actually voted for Cardenas to clear up any doubts regarding Zedillo's legitimacy. It is also instrumentally significant to know the redistribution and the strength of social and political actors. The incoming government, even though it is not part of its agenda, will be pressured to review the ideas of the fiscal state and tackle social gaps threatening to generate desperation and violence; to prevent economic adjustment pacts—if any—from overburdening the weakest; to help workers free themselves from their corporate systems and conquer the initiative of collective self-defense; to enable education—with a new educational system defined by consensus—reach all Mexicans; to guarantee public security and justice so that we may, at last, have access to a state of law. These are only examples. To do this, it is necessary to establish legitimate bridges between the government and the broad forgotten group of society, bridges to channel dissatisfaction and complaints within a legal order.

Losing per se is not disgraceful. All the less when one must compete in such a disadvantageous position against a moribund government party, although observers and foreign analysts do not understand it or only partly understand it. What is shameless is accepting what is willingly offered after a game of marked cards. Consequently, those who seek to belittle Cuauhtemoc Cardenas' stature or erase him from the political arena do not truly know what they are doing.

Column Assesses Effect of PRI Victory on Trade

PA2908133594 Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 23 Aug 94 p 20

[From the "Free Zone" column by Jose Luis Gaona]

[Text] Ernesto Zedillo's invitation to other presidential candidates to "construct a joint government platform" will not succeed in terms of foreign trade. During the campaign, none of the candidates, including the PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] candidate, presented a well-structured program to stimulate exports. The problems of enterprises dealing in foreign trade were discussed among PRI entrepreneurs, but Zedillo himself discussed this only briefly in his 10-point economic program. For this reason, the commerce program for the 1994-2000 term will have two fundamental sources. These are the commercial agreements signed by Mexico during Carlos Salinas' term, particularly the agreements with the United States and Canada, and the proposals of private foreign trade organizations.

If the opposition candidates do indeed participate in preparing a government program, their concern will focus on the country's political reform. In terms of economics, the most that can be expected from the opposition is greater attention to microbusinesses and small and medium-sized enterprises—the hardest hit segment of the Mexican economy's unilateral economic opening.

The demands of organizations like ANIERM [National Association of Mexican Importers and Exporters], which is led by Juan Autrique; CONACEX [National Foreign Trade Council] headed by Gilberto Jimenez, and CEMAI [Mexican Businessmen's Council for International Affairs], which is led by Francisco Lopez Barredo, focus on cheaper access to cash, lower fiscal burdens, and greater deregulation.

If the next president of the republic wants small and medium- sized enterprises to catch the caboose of the foreign trade express, the government and private sector will have to devise development programs tailored to the enterprises' needs. Only in this way will the country be able to diversify products, enterprises, and markets. We run the risk of basing our growth expectations on exports by multinational enterprises (read: the automotive sector).

Yesterday was an unusual Monday at the Commerce and Industrial Development Secretariat. A good number of first-level officials came to work later than usual but in very high spirits. Everyone commented on the results of the elections. The reason is that, for those officials closest to Jaime Serra Puche, Zedillo's victory is meaningful, regardless of whether or not Serra Puche continues to work at 10 Alfonso Reyes Tower.

To most of them, a worst-case scenario equates Zedillo's victory with more of the same. In other words, they have another six years to look forward to at the tower in the Condesa neighborhood, depending on the under secretary they have to work for. Nevertheless, the hearts of those with higher political aspirations are hoping for a nicer office in the National Palace, the Insurgentes neighborhood, overlooking Central Alameda or San Angel. For the most disciplined ones, Mexico's negotiating position has been reinforced and the country's strategy with its commercial partners will be consolidated by the PRI victory.

For instance, Herminio Blanco's team is sure to resume talks with the governments of the United States and

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Canada to speed up the elimination of tariffs for some products within the framework of NAFTA. Something similar will happen to Mexico's standing commercial agreements with Latin American and European countries, as well as with those agreements likely to be signed with Asian countries. In terms of the region, it has been said that the electoral results portray Mexico as a politically and economically strong country, increasingly willing to progress toward commercial integration with the United States and Canada.

The suspicion and fear that the electoral process was Mexico's Achilles' heel have been overcome. It is true that much remains to be done in political and electoral matters, but the foundation for Mexico to become a democratic nation has been established. Within the context of the North American trade bloc, the election results turn Mexico into a stronger player. In terms of the logic of the market economy and regional integration, this position translates into confidence for enterprises and investors. This is the bottom line. Still, other interpretations are possible.

Several former presidents of CANACINTRA [National Association of the Processing Industry] headed by Jorge Kahwagi, along with a group of experts close to Zedillo, meet every Wednesday to prepare a government program for industry. This is supposed to be one of the buttresses for the upcoming term, because 60 percent of the nation's jobs are created by microbusinesses and small and medium-size enterprises.

Neither the Mexican Government nor the National Chamber of Cement Manufacturers have received from the U.S. Commerce Department a specific proposal for a compromise on dumping [previous word published in English] against domestic exports. Although the possibility of Mickey Kantor and Serra Puche sitting down to negotiate on this matter has not been ruled out, we still think there is a long way to go before this commercial conflict is resolved.

Now, the National Politechnical Institute will be fashionable. One example will suffice: The First Nationwide Meeting on Technical and Higher Education in Mexico's Export Community will be held on 7 September. Naturally, Jaime Serra Puche, crony of the winner in Sunday's elections, will be there for the opening.

'Difficult' Path to Legitimacy Viewed

PA3008034294 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 24 Aug 94 p 4

[Commentary by Jose Luis Trueba Lara: "The Difficult Path To Legitimacy"]

[Text] The electoral results place us before a new political map. Despite defeating its contenders in the bout for the Presidency of the Republic, the PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] did not manage to regain the title of invincible, because the percentage of PRI supporters continues to decline: The 70.99 percent of the vote the government party obtained in the 1982 elections is a large figure compared with the 48.21 percent obtained on 21 August. The loss of nearly one third of the supporters of the former winning machine contrasts with the growth of the National Action Party [PAN], which between 1989 and 1994 nearly doubled its presence in the polls, going from 16.71 to 29.54 percent. In addition, with the results of the past election, the PRD [Party of the Democratic Revolution] had to face the sequel of its internal division and the cost of its monothematic speeches: In one single day, it became evident that the PRD's force was reduced in half, by obtaining just 16.18 percent of the vote.

In the new political map, there is not one single party capable of representing absolutely all Mexicans. Today, the majority just represents a little less than half of the voters, and plurality has become a problem of legitimacy, while it is impossible to govern the country from a single perspective. Contrary to what one might think, the emergence of this new kind of Mexican political system was predicted before the elections. The signing of the Agreement for Civility, Concord, and Justice in Democracy (19 July) marked the crucial point toward achieving legitimacy by stating "that the government resulting from the 21 August election must accomplish the aforesaid objectives beyond the elections, by forming a team that includes the best Mexicans in the struggle for peace, justice, sovereignty, and respecting the participation in and the contribution to the democratic process each of us will continue to make."

Consequently, one month before elections were held, the tools to achieve absolute legitimacy, capable of overcoming the obstacle posed by the small minority, had been presented. This situation prompted, after the champagne bottles to celebrate the PRI victory were chilled, the need for one of the first speeches of the election victor to address this problem. Thus, it is not strange that Ernesto Zedillo has called his opponents to draft a common government platform.

However, this proposal—which may knock down a part of the offer the PRI presented before the IFE as its platform—has an objective that goes beyond the construction of a series of consensuses to support the legitimacy of the victor. The call to form consensus can be a political weapon of importance, because it will permit the PAN and PT [Workers Party of Mexico] to ratify their loyal opposition and incorporate some of their members into the new government, while the forces rejecting this call (I can think of the PRD for instance) will lose every opportunity to engage in a confrontation argument. Therefore, the PRD's defeat will not be limited to electoral matters because, in the days following the elections, the government will have in its hands the possibility to reject an alliance with it.

If the aforementioned statements are true, the transit toward change of power will stem from the joining of different political forces in a common project. Thus, the

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Mexican political system is facing a new paradox: Continuity is for the time being the only path to end the PRI monopoly and, apparently, the "left" will not be able to participate in this.

Editorial Attacks Plan To Sabotage IFE Computer System

PA3008044894 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 25 Aug 94 p 2

[Editorial: "Cybernetic Sabotage Attempt at the Federal Electoral Institute"]

[Text] The 21 August elections were a lesson in democracy for locals and foreigners. All it took was a day's work to destroy old vices and establish a new route for the Mexican political system. The abundant number of votes meant the defeat of abstentionism; the control and surveillance systems approved by the General Council of the Federal Electoral Institute (IFE) let honesty and fairness prevail in the elections. Even the electoral observers who thought they would find a country torn asunder had to accept the democratic virtues of a nation that has closed ranks against violence. The citizens' will has been respected, and an invitation has been issued for Mexico's future to be built based on pluralism and the participation of all the political groups.

Nevertheless, despite the previous achievements, an attempt has been made to sabotage the electoral process by means of a computer virus, which sought to disrupt the computer with the Preliminary Electoral Results Program. With only 12 percent of the polling stations remaining to be computed, and after 39 million ballots had been tallied, IFE General Council Chairman Jorge Carpizo issued the previous report and said there are clues on the possible culprits. He added that an in-depth investigation has been ordered to establish who is responsible for trying to perpetrate a boycott.

The alleged attempt to sabotage the IFE computer system shows, first of all, the existence of a group of individuals who are trying to taint, strictly for political purposes, the most reliable electoral process in recent history. The mandate of the people's will and the elections' honesty do not have the slightest importance to them, given their intention of sponsoring violence and creating uncertainty. Due to these events, the citizens, political parties, and the government of the republic can only show their repulse and defend the goals achieved on 21 August.

Second, the investigation launched to identify those who are responsible for this boycott attempt must be carried out regardless of the consequences. A crime of this nature cannot remain unpunished because it could have jeopardized the efforts and trust of those who participated in Sunday's elections. The defense of what was achieved in the elections is imperative, and this cannot be neglected.

Thus, the culprits of this attempt to introduce a computer virus in the IFE's computer system deserve an exemplary punishment and the citizens' criticism. Nothing and no one must obstruct the passage to democracy.

Need To Accept Electoral Results Emphasized

PA3008035894 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 28 Aug 94 p 13

[Commentary by Jose L. Tort: "Guardian Group. Stability Is Not at Risk;" passages in italics as published]

[Text] The hour of truth has come; the hour to confirm if it is true we are sufficiently mature to overcome our political underdevelopment and accept what it really means to enter a system of government that is more democratic, open, tolerant, and yet more vulnerable, because many are only going to accept what suits them from this democratization—which every one interprets his own way—and reject its consequences, when they are unfavorable to them.

We are seeing that this has already begun to happen with the *diminished* PRD [Party of the Democratic Revolution] and its candidate Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, who is talking of a "monumental fraud" with which the government is imperiling the country's stability and social peace.

Until before 21 August, the general doubt was not that Ernesto Zedillo would lose the elections but that his rivals would accept his victory without resorting to the well-known charges of fraud, something that they have been mentioning in an insistent manner for a long time now —particularly the PRD—as if to prepare the people in that respect. For the time being, and as far as the PAN [National Action Party] and its candidate Diego Fernandez de Cevallos is concerned, it seems they are in general terms already accepting the party's defeat and the PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] victory. Those who will not resign themselves to their defeat are certainly the PRD leaders, let alone the party's radical wing, which could imperil that stability and peace Cardenas is so concerned about.

Dropping a little lower on the scale of fanatics, every radical group has a political wing that is more or less open and another military wing that is totally closed, and one can only have access to it through its top leaders. In this case, we refer to the EZLN [Zapatist National Liberation Army]. While it has not openly shown support for any political party, neither has it done much to hide its points of concurrence with the PRD, and, in particular, with Amado Avendano, the PRD candidate for Chiapas governor, who indirectly benefited from a road accident in which he nearly lost his life, something that was played to the limit for propaganda purposes to portray him as a "martyr," victim of a an assassination attempt. The real unknown is the conduct the PRD-EZLN will adopt in Chiapas, where despite becoming

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the second ranking political force in that state it could not defeat the PRI and its candidate, Eduardo Robledo Rincon, a figure who at any rate *is going to have a rough time* governing, because things are going to get difficult there. In addition to the political aspect of the matter, the Central American-Chiapas guerrilla operating in that region has to continue to protect the very powerful narcopolitical interests that are largely bankrolling them and about which people do not want to talk about, because if one does not know for sure one at least imagines who may be behind them.

This is beyond the National Democratic Convention's control and even beyond Subcommander Marcos' control. They would be outnumbered even by their own comrades if they really want to reach a political agreement with the government and establish permanent peace. A guerrilla group that is almost as old as the URNG [Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity] in Guatemala cannot possibly be dismantled overnight, not even by them. Just like the URNG, as time went by, it accumulated interests and commitments that it cannot get rid of so easily. Whoever believes in a quick demobilization of those armed groups in Chiapas is either a fool or is playing along with someone.

By the way, there is a general in active service who is being ill-used although he is one of our best counterinsurgency experts. His mistake? To stand out for his talent and leadership ability in high-risk operations, where even the most experienced have trembled. For this, ironically, he has earned the animosity of many powerful persons, within and outside the Army. A Tarahumara Indian of the purest stock (this is a clue) he is one of the elements that should now be taken into consideration to counter the problems we mentioned—instead of sending people to take courses in other countries and bringing the so-called foreign experts to teach us what we should be self-sufficient on for quite a time.

A cryptic message to whom it may concern: Not everything stated in the files that many officials and former officials have at the National Investigation and Security Center, a government secretariat branch, is true. People who have had access to these files used the opportunity to jot in all kinds of conjectures and slander, moved by professional jealousy, personal vengeance, political reprisals, and for the mere satisfaction of causing someone harm without having to face him openly.

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Guatemala

Foreign Minister Views Cuban, Haitian Refugees

PA3008003094 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1900 GMT 29 Aug 94

[From the "Telepress" newscast]

[Text] Foreign Minister Marithza Ruiz de Vielman has commented on the Cuban and Haitian refugees:

[Begin Ruiz de Vielman recording] Concerning these Caribbean countries, our policy on receiving refugees must be designed based on national interest. Guatemala has its own situation, its own problems. It is a country in a process of peace and reconciliation. We understand the need to accept refugees for humanitarian reasons, but by the countries that can do so.

Guatemala's situation is special. Concerning Cuban citizens who have relatives in Guatemala, we would have to evaluate this point case by case. The president has not authorized a general policy of accepting refugees. [end recording]

De Leon Remarks on Terrorism, Peace Process

PA2608231394 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1900 GMT 23 Aug 94

[Statement by President Ramiro De Leon Carpio during a news conference with unidentified reporters; place and date not given; broadcast in progress—recorded]

[Text] ...that this type of thing should happen, because we are dealing with human lives. I call on the ombudsman for human rights and all other human rights defense organizations to begin to investigate this case, as I did when I was ombudsman for human rights. In addition to beginning an investigation, they should make some kind of statement. I would like to know where all these organizations are that defend human rights. Could it be that they do not care whether the guerrillas or the government killed that woman yesterday? I say this because the experts continue to discuss whether it is the government or independent groups which violate human rights. I wish to say that, based on the knowledge I have of this issue, UN philosophy and theory have changed. The law that governs this area in Guatemala—which is what we should pay more attention to—and international laws state that it is possible for both individuals and groups to violate human rights. Based on that, in this case, they must speak out. Could it be that they only speak out when it is allegedly the government that violated human rights?

My position on this today is exactly the same as it was when I was ombudsman for human rights. I remember two specific cases: I condemned the guerrillas when they murdered 13 members of the civil defense patrols in an ambush. Later, I condemned the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity [URNG] when they claimed responsibility for the murder of a valuable member of the Guatemalan civilian population at Moca Bridge. The victim was a doctor who had studied and practiced medicine in France. He happened to be on vacation in his native country when he died in a terrorist attack. I issued a resolution condemning the URNG, because the attorney general proved that they had in fact perpetrated this inhuman act.

Therefore, I ask the organizations and groups that defend human rights in Guatemala—both individually and collectively—to speak out. Do they only speak out when the government allegedly violates human rights? I repeat. There is an amendment at the United Nations stating that it is not only the government which violates human rights, but individuals and groups are also susceptible to such violations. Above this, however, is our human rights law, which governs this type of activity. It clearly states that organizations, groups, and individuals are also susceptible to such violations, as well as the government.

I would like to stress the fact that human life is a fundamental right of every society. The most important element of a nation is its people, people like those who were shot and assaulted yesterday by inhuman cowards. Several people were wounded or killed. Now there are several orphans and widows. Many people are crying today. There is mourning, blood, destruction, wounds, and death. We cannot go on this way. The government of the Republic condemns and rejects the violation of the human rights of these Guatemalan citizens, but more so the violation of the Overall Human Rights Agreement. It does so on behalf of its outraged people, who in recent surveys have expressed their disgust at and rejection of this cowardly terrorist attack. Now we can understand why the URNG accuses the government of violating the Human Rights Agreement, using widely distributed and expensive publications, when in fact it is they who are doing the violating with these terrorist attacks.

In spite of them, the government wishes to once again show its real political resolve to achieve peace as soon as possible and within the pledged schedule, signed by both sides. It is for this reason that I am pleased with the presence of Mr. Jean Arnaud, moderator for the peace process. I am pleased to have been informed directly from the United Nations today that a unit has already been created by mandate for the Guatemalan case. I am pleased to find out that, as of 9 September of 1994, the United Nations will mandate an international immediate verification commission; I am pleased that immediately thereafter, the organizational and budgetary sections will be prepared so that this commission can fulfill its mission; and I am also pleased that the Guatemalan Government's words were heeded at the United Nations and that the decision has been made to send a preparatory group or commission prior to sending the definitive commission.

This proves once again the unquestionable political resolve of the Guatemalan Government—and, within

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the government, that of the Guatemalan Army—to meet the schedule that was signed and to achieve peace this year, as requested by the Central American presidents at their recent 15th presidential summit.

I am fulfilling a mission by explaining the scope of this political negotiation to preclude the mistake of establishing new considerations or creating intentions other than political negotiation. The purpose of political negotiation at this time is to achieve the third step in the government's national peace plan: the end to the internal armed conflict. The other two steps, which are the most important, are reconciliation and the struggle against poverty, which we increasingly reaffirm on a daily basis. We must meet the economic and social needs of the Guatemalan people, thereby eliminating the few claims left to the subversives. This is the president's message, and it is the same one he conveyed to the Guatemalan people when he was human rights ombudsman.

I would also like to take advantage of this occasion to reject all of the whimsical interpretations that have been expressed regarding the events of yesterday and of the past few days, which allege that this entire situation has resulted from a lack of political resolve on the part of the sides involved. No, ladies and gentlemen. The political resolve of one of the sides has been tested nationally and internationally; it is real and effective. It is the government's resolve. The other side's resolve must be tested, and incidents like yesterday's definitively prove that the other side's real resolve to achieve peace does not exist. [words indistinct] for convenience or for whatever reason, we are not interested. We will continue with the second step, which is to combat poverty, we will continue with the reconciliation step, and we will continue the process until it reaches a decisive point and recovery is achieved. I hope, of course, that with Mr. Arnaud's presence in Guatemala and the news from the United Nations, which I have just disclosed, it will be possible to recover lost time and meet the schedule that concludes with the signing of firm and lasting peace before the end of the year.

I will immediately move onto the second topic, which pertains to the restructuring of electricity rates. Here I will have to discuss a document that will later be distributed to you to facilitate its interpretation and its disclosure to the Guatemalan people. I thank the news media beforehand for the interest it has show in this topic.

For many weeks, we have been hearing of possible increases in electricity rates. Most of these reports have been speculative and have mentioned increases of 80, 90 or 70 percent. All of that is false. I must inform you that the government conducted a study, a very serious examination of the electrical subsector's problems. Meanwhile, the multisectorial commission has also examined the subsector's many structural problems.

It is necessary to highlight here that the multisectoral commission filed a report and a proposal on this issue. The report and the proposal were the result of a consensus, which set a historic precedent, as the commission comprised representatives of the organized business sector, through the Coordinating Committee of Farming, Commercial, Industrial, and Financial Associations [CAFIF]; the workers, through the National Electrification Institute Workers Union; as well as representatives of the central government and decentralized government agencies, through the Finance Ministry, the Energy and Mines Ministry, the Guatemalan Electricity Company, and the National Electrification Institute.

The studies they presented have been taken into account to set up a new policy on the issue directed at finding medium and long-range answers. Today, after examining all the appropriate studies and research material, I will explain the reasons behind the need to organize the current tariff system. These decisions I am now announcing have been reached taking into account the need to protect the finances of the poorest members of the community. As ombudsman, I defended this position. This government's policy is that social interest shall prevail over individual interest. The Constitution of the Republic of Guatemala establishes this as a basic principle and human right. Literally put, this means that those who can pay must pay. Those who have more must pay more, but those who have less must pay less. As ombudsman for human rights I stated that an increase in electricity rates would be harmful, especially if there were no programs directed at social investment and if it affected low-income families. This I did at the appropriate time, as you surely remember. If you do not, you will remind me [sentence as heard]. Today, I maintain the same position as president as I did as ombudsman for human rights. My argument as ombudsman, which I maintain today, was that any increase in the cost of electricity should have a direct effect on social programs. At the time, the government was promoting programs such as the National Peace Council, the National Land Council, and other such programs. Those social impact programs are now a reality, and this government has invested more than 1.5 billion quetzales to date.

Another important element I mentioned at the time was that the central government continued to give precedence, within the nation's expenditure budget, to unnecessary expenses. Far from being reduced, these expenses had been increased—including the confidential expenses. Therefore, as soon as I assumed the presidency of the republic, I issued orders to eliminate those expenses and transfer those funds to the education, health, and labor sectors. I also issued orders to adopt an austerity policy and implement administrative controls against corruption. We are still carrying out this work, and we will continue to do it, so the scant resources we have are assigned to plans aimed at the most needy sectors. Today I can state that those issues have been the pillars of the current government's policy, and the Guatemalan people have been able to ascertain this through the actions we have carried out and will continue to carry out.

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Until now, then, households have received subsidies based on criteria that are unfair to consumers and, at the same time, harm everyone, even those who do not receive electrical service. How can this be explained to the people? Like this. Instead of investing in the countryside, combating poverty, and bringing the services needed there, the government has had to transfer resources to INDE [National Insititue of Electrification] in the past three years, something that to date has cast 1 billion quetzals. On many occasions, this has meant paying for people who have the means to pay. This also has meant neglecting the rural population, who for the most part lack services, such as education and health, just to mention a couple, although I could mention housing, food, work, and so forth. Government policy regarding subsidies should be based on criteria directed at the poorest. That is what the government program for 1994 and 1995 says. This forces us to restructure the rate policy based on the criteria that require those who are capable of paying to pay the actual rate, and, in turn, subsidies should go to the poorest, who are unable to pay the actual rate. We must also remember that 70 percent of the people—approximately 7 million people—lack this important service, as you can see from the blue chart.

For them, this human, social, collective, or economic right does not exist. This human right exists only for 30 percent of the population, or 3 million people. Again, electrical service exists only for 3 million residents. Out of this 3 million, 82 percent—we can see this in the chart below—consume less than 150 kilowatts per hour, which is equivalent to a monthly salary of 55.28 quetzals at the most. This means that this is the majority of the consumers, or 82 percent. They constitute some 2.4 million consumers. The rest, or 18 percent, corresponds to those who consume more than 200 kilowatts per hour. In trying to determine the impact the adjustment of the new electricity fees will have on the people, let me explain the following: The 82 percent of homes—out of that 30 percent that have electrical service—will not be hurt by the rate adjustment. Hear this well: 82 percent, or 2.4 million who are the neediest, will not be hurt by this rate adjustment. This means the majority of the people who have electrical service will not have to pay extra for the rate adjustment, because the government will cover this through a subsidy that will total 70 million quetzals as long as it lasts. The breakdown of this subssidy is as follows: Nine million quetzalez, from now until December, which will include the VAT [value-added tax] and the municipal tax; 23 million quetzales for 1995; and 32, sorry, 38 million quetzales for the remaining one and one-half years.

For example, the government will now pay the rate increase for those who pay between 3.60 quetzales and 55.28 quetzales a month. Thus, these consumers—watch this now—will not even pay the VAT or the municipal surcharge from now until December, but they will instead pay an increase that will range between 70 centavos and 6 quetzales to cover the municipal surcharge and VAT. Consumers will begin paying this small increase in the VAT and municipal surcharge in January, meaning these people will not pay a single centavo more between now and December.

I also will task a specific office to control the electric power company and INDE. This percentage of people, 2.4 million users, who represent 82 percent of the 30 percent of those of us who have the privilege of using electric power services in Guatemala, should not pay a single additional centavo neither due to tariff increases from now until December nor for VAT or the municipal surcharge.

They will only pay, as I already said, 70 centavos to 6 quetzales, according to consumption, and for VAT and the municipal surcharge beginning in January, meaning users who pay 55.74 quetzales, the maximum rate for 150 kilo watt hours [KWH], will not have to pay higher electric power rates. Users who pay more than 56 quetzales and up to 109.73 quetzales for 150 KWH to 200 KWH will receive a decreasing subsidy from the time the tariff increase takes effect; in other words, the subsidy will gradually diminish as consumption rises.

All these measures mean there will be a power rate increase, but this increase will be applicable to high consumption residential users, which only account for 18 percent of electricity users; that is words, out of 10 million inhabitants, only 600,000 people will pay higher power rates. These 600 [figure as heard] people are the ones who have sufficient income to face this increased power rate. This group of approximately 600,000 people, as I already said, is a minority, which, of course, has a greater paying capability. Thus, it is only fair for them to pay more and for the others not to pay more than the current rate. This 18-percent minority group, these 600,000 people, if they do not want to see their family budget unduly affected, will, of course, have to adopt power-saving measures; otherwise, if they want the luxury of high consumption, then let them pay. I believe this point is something all the people understand, and they support the attitude of this administration.

There is a second aspect that is of tremendous importance and about which the people should know. According to the policy of favoring the poorest and with the intent of not increasing consumer prices, the industrial and commercial electric power rates—that is, high consumption services—will not be changed. The government could have achieved this subsidy about which I am talking through an increase in industrial and commercial power rates. This increase would have been immediately transferred to consumers, thus affecting all the people, not only the 30 percent or 3 million people who have the privilege of using electric power but the 70 percent or 7 million inhabitants, who, in rural areas especially, do not even enjoy this human right.

So as to avoid affecting this sector and transferring this cost by higher prices for products, the rate has been kept

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exactly the same for industrial and commercial users, meaning there should not be, or, rather, any reason at all to increase the price of products. This guarantee is for all Guatemalan people that products, which are already expensive, will not be made more expensive than their current price. There is no reason for any product to be increased even one single centavo due to electric power rates.

Honduras

Government Studying Accepting 5,000 Cubans

PA3008023194 Paris AFP in Spanish 0007 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 29 Aug (AFP)—The Honduran Government announced on 29 August it is studying the possibility of receiving approximately 5,000 Cuban "rafters" who are fleeing en masse from the island's socioeconomic and political situation on board small craft.

Following a meeting with Simon Ferro, a representative of the Cuban community in Miami, Honduran Foreign Minister Ernesto Paz Aguilar said if an agreement is reached with the U.S. Government, the Cubans would settle on the Swan Islands, a Caribbean territory measuring 3.5 square km.

Ferro met with Honduran President Carlos Roberto Reina and the foreign minister to analyze the crisis in Cuba and the situation of the rafters, who continued their exodus by sea today, watched by security forces that follow Fidel Castro's instructions to prevent the departure of anyone under the age of 15.

Paz said the governments of Honduras and the United States must set the number of Cubans and the duration of their stay in Honduran territory, but he revealed his country might receive approximately 5,000 rafters.

Meanwhile, Ferro interpreted the Honduran Government's decision to receive the Cubans as proof of President Reina's "emphatic and strong sympathy" to help those who risk their lives as they leave their country on board small and precarious craft.

The representative of the Cuban community in exile said the problem of taking care of the rafters belongs not only to the United States "but to all of Latin America. The sooner the hemisphere unites, both to solve the problem of the rafters and to seek a solution to democracy in Cuba, the sooner the goal will be achieved."

"If Honduras receives the Cubans it will be making a great sacrifice, which should be assumed by all the countries in the hemisphere. Nevertheless, if it is one of the few (which agrees to receive refugees) it will have greater prominence in the eyes of the world and the people who need it the most."

Mark Krischik, U.S. Embassy spokesman in Honduras, has said his country has yet to formally ask this nation to receive a specific number of rafters, but he added the possibility is being seriously studied.

Four rafters received protection in Honduras last week after sailing two weeks in a small boat, and they were given "tourist" visas.

Immigration Director Angelina Ulloa has said the Cubans did not request asylum in Honduras, because they are leaving Cuba with the intention of going to Miami, where many of them have relatives.

Nicaragua

Assembly Approves New Military Code

PA2708040894 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 24 Aug 94 pp 1, 5

[Report by Jorge Katin; passages in italics as published]

[Text] Nicaragua now has a new *Military Law*, following a session that lasted until 1900 on 23 August during which the Assembly approved the 94 articles of the *Military Code*, thereby wrapping up the debate on one of the most controversial laws in the last few years.

Assembly President Luis Humberto Guzman said he was pleased with the law, considering "this opportunity was the last chance to approve it before the country immerses itself in an electoral campaign" and recalling that the previous *Military Law* remained unchanged since 1990.

During the last day of debates on the *Military Code*, certain articles were approved, including, among others, the articles defining the resources of the Social Security Institute [Instituto de Prevision Social] (IPS) and the provisional article setting 21 December as the date when a new Army chief must be appointed.

Concerning IPS resources, it was established the same will emanate from the contributions the state made when the law was enacted, and the remainder will come from state contributions included in the national budget.

As private sectors had demanded, "it is herein forbidden to use revenues and income generated by IPS resources in areas other than military social security."

This article was approved following a long discussion that ended as deputies Danilo Aguirre, Hernaldo Zuniga, and Cairo Manuel Lopez reached a consensus backed by 53 deputies and rejected by three others.

The "Due Obedience"

Another article, described as innovative, of our *Military Law*, is the one defining "due obedience," which allows an officer to refuse an order he believes violates the country's laws or human rights.

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Article 85, which will expire the day it is enforced, reads as follows: "The president of the Republic will appoint the new commander in chief of the Army on 21 December 1994, as stipulated in Paragraph 6 of *Article 7* of this law; he will take office on 21 February 1995."

Guzman spoke about last week's withdrawal of the UNO [National Opposition Union] from the Assembly, saying "if they praised the current *Military Law*, which the president of the Republic approved by decree in 1990, they would have to praise and approve the recently approved new law."

Enough Consensus

Meanwhile, Sandinist bloc leader Dora Maria Tellez has said her bloc is pleased, because the approved law will contribute to the country's institutionality.

In addition to having enough consensus by the legislative branch, "the important thing is for the recently approved law to be backed by the Presidency and the Army itself, thus limiting the tenure of the Army chief, subordinating him to civilian authorities and creating the military social security system," Tellez added.

Regarding the attitude taken by the 21 UNO deputies, Tellez has said it had failed to dwindle the law's legitimacy, underscoring: "the discussions of the *Code* have warned the people of the limitations of the military authority and of its responsibility toward civilian authorities."

Deputy Tellez added the ideal code or law is unattainable, thus forecasting a new debate on this law within 10 of 15 years, and he explained "the institution needs time. The important thing is that society, the government, and the Army be aware of what type of military organizations we want to have," thereby obviating any possibility of having a presidential veto.

Panama

Minister-Designate: Country Prepared To Accept Cubans

PA3008005894 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Report by Maria Rivera from the "RPC Television News" newscast]

[Text] Foreign Minister-designate Gabriel Lewis Galindo said today Panama is prepared to receive 10,000 Cubans under the same conditions set for the Haitians. Meanwhile, the vice president of the Cuban Institute of Friendship With the People has said U.S. requests to Latin American countries regarding Cubans are due to the United States' inability to resolve the problem.

The foreign minister-designate explained that when the Haitian crisis emerged, the Panamanian president-elect, Ernesto Perez Balladares, agreed to receive Haitians in Panama under certain conditions, and these conditions will also apply for the Cuban rafters:

[Begin recording] [Lewis Galindo] Their status would be that of expatriates whom the United States would receive on its bases for a period of no longer than six months. We have been considering receiving 10,000 Cubans, in groups of 2,500.

[Rivera] Have you thought about what will be the status of children born here in Panama?

[Lewis Galindo] Of course. We reached an agreement in principle: Women who are found to be pregnant will be transferred in due time to Guantanamo Naval Base so that the child may be born in Cuban territory. [end recording]

The United States has proposed to several Latin American countries that they receive Cubans.

Luis Morejon, vice president of the Cuban Institute of Friendship With the People and a member of the Cuban delegation in Panama for the presidential inauguration, has explained that what is happening is that the problem of the rafters got out of the hands of the United States. They created a monster, and they lost control, he has said:

[Begin Morejon recording] They had encouraged illegal departures, and they do not know what to do now with the Cubans they motivated to leave illegally. They want other countries to share the problem with them now. We had said if the United States continued to encourage illegal departures from the country, we would not obstruct such illegal departures; therefore, either the United States must adopt measures in this regard, or we will not adopt any measure to prevent illegal departures from Cuba. [end recording]

Morejon has said the United States has made the normal acquisition of U.S. visas impossible, thus spurring the Cubans into leaving illegally.

Legal Aspects of Granting Asylum to Refugees

PA2708121994 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 21 Aug 94 p 4

[Article by Roberto R. Aleman, minister adviser to the president of the Republic]

[Text] **International Law**

Because of the important role that certain international law principles play in some of the issues that we will discuss here, I must point out that Article 4 of the Constitution stipulates: "The Republic of Panama heeds international law." It is generally accepted that international law emanates from treaties, international customs, and writings by recognized treaty experts.

Authority of the President of the Republic

Paragraph 9 of Article 179 of the Constitution stipulates that one of the president of the Republic's prerogatives,

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which he exercises with the participation of the respective minister, is the following: "To administer foreign relations; to sign public treaties and agreements, which shall be submitted to the legislative; and to commission and receive diplomatic and consular representatives."

In addition, it should be noted that Paragraph 3 of Article 153 of the Constitution states that one of the legislative functions is "to approve or reject, before they are ratified, any international treaties or agreements signed by the executive."

According to accepted international law principles, countries can sign agreements or bind themselves through the exchange of notes. Of course, the question of whether a country that has signed an international agreement through the exchange of notes should submit the agreement to the legislature for approval depends on that country's internal legislation.

UN Proposal

In a note dated 4 July 1994, the office of the UNHCR proposed the following to the president of the Republic: "By virtue of the post I hold, I have voiced the opinion that the present situation in Haiti precludes the return of Haitians safely and with dignity and that it would be preferable to grant temporary protection to all Haitians requiring this protection in appropriate places in the region until they can return to their country. With this purpose in mind, this office would appreciate it very much if your government considers the possibility of providing adequate facilities for this lofty cause. I understand, Mr. President, that your government is in a position to provide a center to temporarily lodge a considerable number of Haitians in already existing facilities, which so far have been used by the U.S. military, while more adequate facilities are prepared for this purpose."

Camps at Defense Sites

Panama has always held the view that the areas the Canal Treaties have assigned for the Canal can be used for this purpose only—that is to say, the maintenance, operation, cleaning, and protection of the Canal. This topic has been the source of conflict, and Panama's position, referred to above, dates back to De Obaldia's well-known 11 August 1904 note.

The "Agreement for the Execution of Article 4 of the Panama Canal Treaty"—in other words, the 1977 Canal Treaty portion dealing with the Armed Forces' presence in Panama—includes "a list of the areas and installations therein that the Republic of Panama, by virtue of this agreement, allows the U.S. Armed Forces to use for the specific Panama Canal purposes and any other purposes the two governments might agree upon."

Through notes signed and exchanged in Washington on 7 September 1977, it was agreed that, "in addition to activities related to the Panama Canal Treaties' specific purposes, the United States can carry out other activities in the Republic of Panama, such as conducting scientific tests, performing work for the Inter-American Geodesic Institute, training Latin American military personnel, and doing humanitarian cooperation work, including search and rescue operations."

It would be enough to read the exchanged notes referred to above to draw the conclusion that the words "humanitarian cooperation, including search and rescue operations" cannot be used to justify bringing into a defense site a large number of Haitians, who would live in a camp with restricted freedom, without an agreement between Panama and the United States. The U.S. Government undoubtedly understands this. For this reason, the U.S. Embassy on 7 July 1994 handed to the Panamanian Foreign Ministry a proposal for an agreement leading to the establishment of a refugee camp (safe haven) [preceding two words in English] for as many as 10,000 Haitian citizens. We wonder whether, in fulfilling Paragraph 9, Article 179 of the Constitution, the president of the Republic can legally reach an agreement, through an exchange of notes, expanding the U.S. authority regarding the use of defense sites, and whether the president of the Republic can refrain from presenting this agreement "to be debated by the legislature." Of course, it is also necessary to consider that, according to Article 310 of the Constitution, any "international agreement" on "a lock canal, its adjacent area, and the protection of such a canal" must be approved by the legislature and that, after approval, such an agreement must "be submitted to a national referendum, which cannot be held earlier than three months after the legislature's approval."

The possible use of defense sites to establish a center for Haitian refugees will necessarily elicit a debate on matters related to the exercise of "Criminal Jurisdiction" (Article 6 of the agreement on the U.S. military presence in Panama). Generally speaking, this article grants the United States the right to exercise criminal jurisdiction only when both the perpetrator of the crime and his victim are members of the U.S. Armed Forces or the civilian component that supports the Armed Forces' activities. (Cases where Panamanians are involved are excluded.) In the case of Haitians, in every case in which the criminal or his victim is a refugee, the exercise of the jurisdiction would fall on Panama exclusively.

Camps in Areas Allocated for Canal Operation

Article 3 of the 1977 Treaty stipulates that Panama "grants the United States of America the right to manage, operate, and maintain the Panama Canal, its works, institutions, and auxiliary equipment...." In the performing of these activities, the Treaties precisely designate certain areas and define them as "areas for the Canal's operation."

Obviously, the comments I made above regarding the establishment of a refugee camp at a defense site apply to

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the proposal to establish such a camp in one of the areas that the 1977 Treaty defines as "areas for the Canal's operation."

Considering that the 1977 Panama Canal Treaty precisely states that Panama permits the use of land and installations as "areas for the Canal's operation," we wonder whether the president of the Republic and the foreign minister are constitutionally authorized to agree with either the United Nations or the United States, through an exchange of notes, that such areas can be used for purposes obviously unrelated to the Canal's utilization and later refrain from submitting the agreement to the legislature's approval and a "national referendum."

A Camp in National Territory

To embark upon a project to establish a refugee camp for Haitians in national territory—a camp that is not in agreement with the Canal Treaties or in any way is related to the utilization, operation, or protection of the Canal—it shall of course be necessary to sign a public agreement with the United Nations or with the United States (or with both at the same time). In my opinion, any international agreement of this nature—one through which at least UN "blue berets" or U.S. soldiers would be allowed to exercise police duties inside national territory—is necessarily a public agreement that, according to our laws, must be remitted to the Legislative Assembly for approval. (National Constitution, Article 171, Paragraph 9)

The agreements on the refugee issue signed under UN auspices do not take into consideration the issue of the mass arrival of refugees. In the absence of such agreements, the UNHCR Executive Committee, during a meeting held in April 1981 in Geneva, after making reference to the problem that comes up time and again whenever the mass exodus of refugees is discussed, reached the conclusion that, with regard to the mass arrival of refugees, the international community should observe the following rules, which are summed up as follows:

A) The refugees should be admitted by the nation where they request asylum.

B) The refugees should not be limited in their right to move about freely, except if such limitations become necessary for health reasons or for reasons pertinent to keeping public order.

C) The refugees should receive all necessary assistance, and they should be given all basic means to live properly, including food, a place to dwell, and sanitary facilities, including means pertinent to maintaining a healthy life.

D) The refuges should be guaranteed the right to send and receive mail.

The above-mentioned rules, in addition to others, sum up what the United Nations considers "international practice" with regard to the problems related to the mass exodus of refugees and, therefore, are part of the international law in force.

Reflections on Legal Aspects

It is rightly said that the nations make their decisions on foreign policy taking into account their "national interest." In the case of the Haitian refugees, another determining factor is the adoption of a policy that necessarily has rightly been labeled as a consideration of a "humanitarian" character.

The "national interest" should necessarily be related to all that is pertinent to improving the quality of life of those of us who coexist in our nation. In this regard, the maintenance of good relations with the United States and with the United Nations is important. The U.S. presence in Panama since the beginning of the century has created a very special relationship between both nations. We have had difficulties, but we have also found the willingness to resolve these problems. Before us, we are facing six very special years. Both nations must adopt a great deal of goodwill toward one another. In terms of the transition period before the turning over of the Canal, U.S. goodwill can result in significant benefits for Panama.

As far as the United Nations is concerned, we must recognize that for a small nation such as Panama it is very important to maintain good relations with the international organization. In the past, we have benefited, and we should try to benefit in the future from the UN Program for Development as well as other UN activities aimed at helping small nations.

The case of the Haitian refugees is not an isolated problem in our relations with the United States and the United Nations. When resolving this, we must take into account "the national interest."

Meanwhile, the United States, as well as the United Nations, should show goodwill toward Panama by understanding the magnitude of the political and legal problems presented by a plan to bring to a great number of refugees into Panama.

Endara Pardons Ex-President Delvalle, Ex-Envoy

PA2808021094 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 25 Aug 94 p A-2

[Report by Ibeth Vega G.]

[Text] President Guillermo Endara has granted pardons to former President Eric Arturo Delvalle, with regard to all political crimes related to the repression of the National Civic Crusade [CCN] on so-called "Black Friday," and to Juan B. Sosa, former Panamanian ambassador to Washington, concerning crimes related to the government in exile's handling of a $10-million fund.

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The two events occurred during the last few years of the military dictatorship of deposed dictator Manuel Antonio Noriega.

Through Executive Decrees Numbers. 422 and 423, issued on 23 August 1994, Endara granted pardons to Delvalle and Sosa regarding politically related crimes committed between 1987 and 1989.

President Delvalle issued on 7 July 1987 Executive Decree No. 59, which ordered the suspension of the political protests and rallies scheduled for 9 and 10 July 1987 to demand justice for the crimes denounced by former Colonel Roberto Diaz Herrerra.

Nevertheless, the CCN proceeded with its protest, and the defunct Panamanian Defense Forces enforced Delvalle's decree by violently repressing the CCN's political rally on 10 July, which was later known as "Black Friday."

A number of people who were affected filed lawsuits against the former Panamanian president. Delvalle remained in exile.

The decree states, however, the events of Black Friday were of a political nature, and Delvalle was granted a pardon for this reason. Therefore, legal action may not be filed or taken against Delvalle regarding the excessive use of force on 10 July 1987.

Endara has also granted a pardon to Juan B. Sosa, who was accused of mismanaging the approximately $10 million spent by the government in exile to overthrow the military government.

According to the decree, Sosa gave Monsignor Jose Luis Lacunza, auxiliary bishop of Panama, a detailed report on the use of those funds. Lacunza said in turn the expenses were "fully justified."

Sosa had already justified expenses for approximately $5,555,782.00, leaving $5,136,432.00 unaccounted for. Sosa gave a report on the missing sum after reaching an agreement with President Endara.

A note sent by Lacunza to President Endara reads "if the name of the people or organizations that received this money (to overthrow the Noriega regime) were made known, it could endanger their safety."

Endara: Cali Cartel 'Bought' Certain Prosecutors

PA2908014194 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 27 Aug 94 pp 1, 12

[Report by David Daniel Victoria]

[Text] President Guillermo Endara disclosed yesterday he does not "trust" the prosecutors who investigated the corruption of the PTJ [Judicial Technical Police], in view of the fact he has had to "remain silent" during his presidential term over the prosecutors' "strange" behavior so as not to meddle in the judicial branch. In addition, Endara said he has information that Cali Cartel drug traffickers had "bought" some of the prosecutors.

Endara said he has more confidence in PTJ Director Jaime Abad and Deputy Director Javier Cherigo than in the prosecutors, because he has intelligence reports stating Cali Cartel drug traffickers are arriving in Panama to free their members who are serving time in Panamanian jails, and to his surprise, a prosecutor orders their release a few days after.

Endara said "there are plenty of things, unfortunately, about which I know I must dutifully keep quiet, as if I had to swallow a frog, because it is information that is unavailable to the courts of justice."

According to the president, the prosecutors of the Attorney General's Office do not enjoy the same trust he has in Abad and Cherigo, who have proven to be "honest and professional." He added actions against the PTJ directors have been too hasty.

He said the prosecutors' "strange" behavior concerns the release of drug traffickers by agreement among the prosecutors themselves. Endara said he has been asked on several occasions about these releases, but he has had to keep quiet in public "and say I cannot say anything."

He said he will speak with much "more freedom" on these irregularities by prosecutors in six days, when he hands over power, and will give details of the information he has.

He described as unfair the actions by the Attorney General's Office against Abad and Cherigo, although he said Attorney General Jorge Ramon Valdes has his full confidence.

Jose Alberto Alvarez, former president of the National Bar Association, has said President Endara must prove drug traffickers are buying certain prosecutors, because these accusations are very serious. Alvarez has added the attorney general must come out and defend the prosecutors, because he himself has authorized the PTJ investigation.

Attorney General Valdes said on 25 August that the PTJ is infiltrated by "mafias," that 24,154 case files are "frozen," and that 9,700 arrest warrants have not been served.

Valdes entrusted a commission of eight prosecutors from the Attorney General's Office to investigate corruption within the PTJ, and he accused the staff members of "not complying with the mission of purging" the institution, inasmuch as they punished their subordinates with mere verbal reprimands, even though several charges, including rape, had been brought against them.

The report presented by the prosecutors states the investigations indicate there was a proven and alarming lack of capability by the PTJ and the possible perpetration of crimes such as extortion, embezzlement, abuse of

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authority, corruption, theft of documents, and crimes against the administration of justice.

The report also criticized the work of those in charge of the Office of Professional Responsibility and the Criminal Investigations Division. Raul Montenegro, government and justice minister-designate, said on 23 August the possibility of passing the PTJ over to this ministry is being studied.

The PTJ director and deputy director placed their posts at the disposal of the Supreme Court of Justice, but they will have to stay in their posts until the magistrates reach a final decision.

Investigation Finds PTJ Corruption Worse

PA2608202194 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 25 Aug 94

[Report by Abdiel Antonio Gutierrez; from the "RPC Television News" newscast]

[Text] Corruption within the Judicial Technical Police [PTJ] is worse than originally believed. According to a report prepared by all the prosecutors in the Attorney General's Office, the PTJ's hierarchy inexplicably tolerated its subordinates' wrongdoings.

The prosecutors have inserted their fingers in the wound. Their report on PTJ corruption speaks of an institution that is rotten at all levels. Not only this—apparently there has been progressive negligence by its upper echelons.

[Begin Prosecutor Maria Elena Alvarez recording] We have concluded that in addition to administrative and procedural misconduct with regard to the institution's internal rules, there have been cases of possible criminal misconduct that are covered by our own Penal Code, such as extortion, corruption, abuse of authority and infringement of duties by public officials, embezzling, removal of public records, and crimes against the administration of justice. [end recording]

The report found 24,154 files that were not being processed and arrest warrants that had not been served—a serious scandal for an institution tasked with investigating and fighting crime. But this is not the whole story.

[Begin Alvarez recording] Some PTJ branches in the interior of the country do not have records of files on drug-related crimes. The respective copies were compared in order to open a penal investigation in accordance with Judicial Code Article 20-71, specifically that portion dealing with anomalous situations found in certain branches in the interior, in which desks used by PTJ officials were found to contain forgotten case files, unregistered guns, and substances presumed to be drugs, which were sent to the lab for analysis.

In other agencies we found case reports kept in files where typed stickers had been placed over older case files, lost evidence, stolen merchandise, and case reports that had been retyped without the presence of the claimant. [end recording]

A question comes to mind: How could the attorney general not realize what was going on in the PTJ? After all this was found, why have the officials not been immediately removed? The reply is that only the Supreme Court has the power to make this kind of decision.

[Begin Fourth Circuit Judge Miliciades Alvarez recording] It is not up to this commission to decide whether any PTJ official should be dismissed. [end recording]

Supreme Court magistrates declined to issue any statements for the time being because, according to them, the document read during the news conference had not reached them yet. But Attorney General Valdes suggested an immediate alternative:

[Begin Valdes recording] They should submit their resignations voluntarily so that we may investigate and find out if there are really bad or corrupt people. [end recording]

The prosecutors' report serves to confirm doubts about the PTJ, not only the lower levels but the subdirectorate as well. However, the report mentions crimes but does not list any names, so it is up to the Supreme Court to decide.

PTJ Officials Submit Resignations

PA2708194194 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 26 Aug 94

[Report by Mara Rivera from the "RPC Television News" newscast]

[Text] Just as he had announced, PTJ [Judicial Technical Police] Director Jaime Abad has submitted his resignation to the Supreme Court of Justice. He was accompanied by PTJ Deputy Director Javier Cherigo and PTJ Secretary General Roxana de Sanjur, who also submitted their resignations.

The resignations were received by Magistrate Jose Manuel Faundes, acting Supreme Court president. Abad made it clear for the record that at no time was he questioned by prosecutors who drafted the report on the PTJ, and he added that he does not know whether other subordinates should also resign as part of the investigation.

[Begin Abad recording] The truth of the matter is that it is not at all clear whether I am expected to ask for the

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resignation of those officials below the three of us. I have not been instructed on this, either orally or in writing. [end recording]

Magistrate Faundes received the resignations, but he explained that the full Supreme Court could not be convened at the time, and, therefore, the issue could not be dealt with immediately. He added that the law does not allow a public official to leave his post unless a replacement has already been appointed.

[Begin Faundes recording] None of the three officials can leave their posts. This is a principle that has to be followed. They have to await the evaluation of the report sent by the Attorney General's Office in connection with the investigation. [end recording]

For the time being there is no information as to the exact number of PTJ officials who are involved in the report issued by the Attorney General's Office. It is clear, however, that an immediate in-depth investigation is needed. A decision on this case will not be made until Monday [29 August] when the full court will be able to convene. In the meantime, Jaime Abad and Javier Cherigo must remain in their posts.

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Argentina

Menem Meets Canadian International Trade Minister

PY2908220494 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1533 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 29 Aug (NA)—President Carlos Menem today met Canadian International Trade Minister Roy MacLaren. They reviewed various issues linked to bilateral trade.

The meeting was held at Government House. At the meeting Menem was joined by Foreign Minister Guido di Tella, while MacLaren was joined by Canadian Ambassador to Argentina Robert Rochon, Canadian Embassy commercial attache David Cohen, and Denis Thibault, the Canadian trade director for Latin America and the Caribbean.

After the meeting, the Canadian international trade minister went to the Argentine Chamber of Commerce, where he lectured before the entrepreneurs on trade relations, the growing Canadian investments in our country, and the exchange of equipment and technology. MacLaren also talked about an agreement signed with President Menem by which Argentina will receive support from the Trade Facilitation Office for exporting Argentine products to Canada.

Expansion of Argentine-Chilean Cooperation Viewed

PY2608234594 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0120 GMT 26 Aug 94

[Text] Nearly 10 years have elapsed since the signing of the Treaty of Peace and Friendship which, thanks to the mediation of Pope John Paul II, extricated Chile and Argentina from a state of war. Now these two countries are engaged in one of the most dynamic trade and investment associations in Latin America.

Trade between Argentina and Chile will amount to some $1.4 billion this year ($200 million more than in 1993). Argentina will thus become Chile's fourth trading partner following Japan, the United States, and the EU.

According to official reports, trade between the two countries totaled $681 million in the first two quarters of the year, which represents an average increase of 23 percent annually so far in the 1990's.

In the 1980's bilateral trade grew by only 5 percent, as the mobilization of troops that led both countries to the brink of war in December 1978 over the border area in the Beagle Channel had not yet been entirely dismantled.

Bilateral trade in terms of volume may surge in 1995 due to the impact of growing Chilean imports of Argentine crude oil through the pipeline across the Andes mountain range linking Neuquen and Talcahuano, which was opened this year. Chile purchased $80 million worth of crude from Argentina in the first semester of the year.

In the same area, state and private enterprises of the two countries and international consortiums are currently discussing the construction of two gas pipelines from the Argentine oil fields to Santiago and southern cities, in operations that will be completed in 1995 and involve an investment of more than $1.5 billion.

In turn, and something which was unthinkable 15 years ago, Chilean businessmen today have an important role in the 'strategic' supply of electricity for the city of Buenos Aires and neighboring towns. These businessmen have invested some $600 million in four generating plants and distribution networks.

During the past 3 years another $200 million of Chilean origin has been invested in the Argentine manufacturing sector, $70 million in the chemical industry, and some $50 million in the purchase and/or creation of food production and publishing companies.

In addition to the flow of foreign capital into Argentina, its inhabitants can today observe a range of 1,500 products imported from Chile, according to ProChile, the state organization that promotes exports.

Argentina's product offering on the Chilean market does not have as much variety, but it has a slight surplus where the balance of payments is concerned.

Businessmen and the two governments foresee a tendency toward a balance in the exchange amounts, within the framework of a trade flow that will grow even more quickly with the pending "physical integration" projects that Presidents Carlos Menem and Eduardo Frei will highlight during the 25-26 August meetings in Santiago.

Before the meeting of the presidents, the Binational Commission, which prepared the economic agenda of the meeting and concluded its discussions on 24 August, has announced that preparations have been made to keep functioning at least five of the 12 border passes between the two countries.

The new low altitude tunnel in Los Andes, located on the highway between Chile's central zone and the Argentine region of Mendoza, will be the largest job, and will now be carried out with financing from either the World Bank or the Inter-American Development Bank.

The tunnel through the Andes will be the longest in the world, and the so-called Atlantic-Pacific bioceanic 'corridor' will remain open permanently.

Defense Minister Discusses Military Salary Issue

PY2908145294 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2048 GMT 26 Aug 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 Aug (NA)—The defense and economy ministers will continue to discuss the restructuring of Armed Forces salaries next week.

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The announcement was made today by Defense Minister Oscar Camilion, who said there is "substantial agreement" that "the salaries of the Armed Forces are in need of adjustment."

Camilion said: "We must find a lasting solution."

"We are discussing the problem. While we have not yet reached a conclusion, I think we are making progress," the minister said.

The minister confirmed that 70,000 class of 1976 citizens will undergo a medical check "to discover their state of health."

Camilion confirmed that all citizens who requested a deferment of their military service "will be exempted" from the requirement. Camilion said the campaign to recruit voluntary military service personnel "will start in late September or early October."

The minister said the class of 1976 will "apparently" not be required for military service because "applications for voluntary soldiers will considerably exceed the needs of the Armed Forces."

Camilion said the government has allotted money in the next budget "to be used exclusively to cover the additional cost of incorporating voluntary soldiers."

Government-Business-Labor Agreement Viewed

94SM0449A Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish
26 Jul 94 pp 26-27

[Text] The government, labor unions, and business yesterday signed an agreement on job promotion that will serve as a framework for resuming talks on enhancing labor flexibility. This measure, which seeks to bring down costs and create more jobs, represents an attempt to provide a concerted response to the unemployment problem. The jobless rate has once again climbed to record levels.

The agreement was presented with great pomp and circumstance in the White Room of the government palace, with Carlos Menem and several cabinet ministers in attendance. Among them were Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo and Labor Minister Armando Caro Figueroa, who piloted the negotiations and signed the agreement on behalf of the government.

The only person to sign on behalf of the unions was the secretary general of the General Confederation of Labor (CGT), Antonio Cassia. Business was represented by the president of the Argentine Industrial Union (UIA), Jorge Blanco Villegas, who directly participated in the negotiations prior to the drafting of the document.

Also present were representatives of other business entities, but their presence was more a formality, since they signed a text the final version of which they had not even had the opportunity to read.

They were Francisco Macri (Argentine Construction Union), Munir Madeur (Argentine Construction Chamber), Jorge Di Fiori (Argentine Chamber of Commerce), Julio Macchi (Argentine Commodity Exchange), Eduardo Escassany (Association of Argentine Banks), Julio Gomez (Argentine Banking Association), and a representative of the Argentine Rural Society who appeared on behalf of its president, Eduardo De Zavalia.

"This is an agreement to agree," stated Caro Figueroa on presenting the pact. His play on words highlighted the principal characteristic of the accord: It is merely a general compendium of good intentions that will serve as a point of departure for negotiations from now on.

None of the points developed in the document will be implemented immediately; first they will be studied and discussed by a tripartite commission. These points include the future rules for hiring labor, legislation on industrial injuries, and the call for collective bargaining agreements (see box).

Caro Figueroa acknowledged that "the sharp increase in unemployment made it even more imperative that we resume the labor reforms that still need to be carried out in the country." The minister cited the unemployment statistics released yesterday by the National Institute of Statistics and Census (INDEC) and immediately said, "It is significant that we are seeing an increase in unemployment here in contrast to the country's unprecedented economic growth."

It was Menem himself who thought he had the answer to that apparent contradiction. When he gave the closing speech, the president stressed that "the problem lies in the fact that the new technology is replacing men with robots. That is why we are hoping that this reform will prepare mankind to control the robot."

Throughout his speech, Menem was interrupted several times by the applause of the nearly 200 people who gathered in the White Room. Nearly all of them were members of one of the unions belonging to the CGT, which is allied with the ruling party. The absence of businessmen was conspicuous, except, of course, for the business leaders who had to sign the agreement. At any rate, it was noteworthy that as soon as the ceremony was over, the businessmen disappeared from the scene.

The signing of the pact was preceded by two morning meetings that were held separately. One took place at the Economy Ministry, where Cavallo's men closed a deal with the leaders of the CGT to pay off pension debts and to bolster social project funds by some 21 million pesos. Only after obtaining a response to those demands were the trade unionists willing to sign the accord.

The other meeting was held at the headquarters of the UIA, where Blanco Villegas sought the support of the entity's entire leadership to sign the agreement.

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[Box, p 26]

Principal Points of the Agreement

- The government will withdraw the labor reform bill that it submitted to Congress in August 1993. The legislation will be drafted anew with input from the labor, business, and government.
- The new industrial injuries bill should be concluded by 29 August. An insurance system will be introduced, to which each employer will contribute according to the risk it creates and its accident rate. This represents an effort to limit the "litigation industry" that has emerged in this area.
- It is agreed that collective bargaining is the most effective procedure for adjusting labor standards and practices to new production and labor needs.
- The National Commission for Mediation and Collective Bargaining is created, to be made up of representatives of the government, the CGT, and business.
- The parties pledge to draft a collective bargaining bill by 30 September.
- The parties agree to promote passage of the Bankruptcy Law as a viable tool for preserving jobs and keeping businesses open. The bill will be modified to allow management and labor to negotiate a crisis collective bargaining agreement during the creditors' meeting held prior to the court order of bankruptcy.
- A legal framework will be established by decree under Article 98 of the Employment Law, to enable businesses with more than 50 employees to propose "crisis plans" if they are forced to carry out payroll cutbacks.
- On 30 September, the government will send to Congress a bill regulating workers' right to receive information from their employers regarding collective bargaining, insolvency proceedings, bankruptcy, and crisis procedures.
- Measures will be taken to help employees become shareholders in their companies. A law on labor corporations will be promoted, and a legal framework will be established to allow for the extension of the Shared Ownership Programs to the entire private sector.
- A bill will be drafted to encourage the redistribution of the resources of the family allotment system with a view to giving more to the neediest.
- A special bill providing for the complete revamping of working conditions at small and medium-size businesses (PYMES) should be ready by 15 December.
- Mechanisms for controlling migrant labor will be put in place.
- Regional employment accords will be established, beginning with the northern part of the country. Measures will be adopted to create 100,000 new jobs in the provinces of Jujuy, Salta, Chaco, Formosa, Santiago del Estero, Catamarca, La Rioja, and Tucuman.

[Box, p 26]

Quid Pro Quo

The CGT's presence at the signing of the framework agreement for employment did not come free of charge to the government. First, it cost a promise to contribute 21 million pesos to offset the money lost by the unions' social projects funds in the last three months because of the reduction in employer contributions.

This matter was incorporated into the events held at the government palace yesterday as a "bilateral complementary agreement" between government officials and Antonio Cassia's people. Business had no part in the negotiations.

Of course, Cavallo does not plan to let that money go so easily; the situation of each social project will be carefully monitored to determine whether the fall in income is a result of the reduction in contributions or of mismanagement.

Another concession wrung by the trade unionists has to do with the deregulation of social projects. "Nothing will happen on that for the time being," Cassia told CLARIN yesterday. He stated that the only thing that will change in the social projects is that a merger program will be implemented so that the weakest ones can operate under the aegis of the strongest ones in interunion pacts without state intervention.

Another concession has to do with the debt that a group of large unions owes to the General Office of Taxes for not paying pension fund contributions for their employees.

The amount of the debt is not yet known for certain, but it has been estimated at several million pesos, and the unions have therefore asked for a payment term of 120 months. "We want to pay, but we do not want to be forced to sell off assets or go into debt," stated Cassia yesterday.

Bolivia

FETCTC's Evo Morales Arrested; Peasants March

PY2908184194 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Report by Edwin Mallon Avolos from Oruro and Alex Contreras from Cochabamba; including recorded interview with journalist Oscar Chavez; broadcast in progress—live]

[Excerpts] [recorded passage indistinct] [Mallon Avolos] At 1400 we were near the Police Intelligence [Seip] building where peasant leader Evo Morales [Special Federation of Peasant Workers of the Tropics, FETCTC,

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executive secretary] is under arrest and held incommunicado. We were unable to interview Evo Morales or to verify the rumors that he has allegedly been tortured.

At 2000, Peasant Evo Morales talked with his lawyer Victor Gutierrez, whom he informed that as of 29 August he will start a dry fast at the Seip headquarters.

At 0500 on 29 August, journalist Oscar Chavez, from the (?Arielfax) news agency, informed us from Chapare of the presence of military troops in the Chapare area:

[Begin recording] [Mallon Avalos] How is the situation there? Oscar Chavez, go ahead. [passage indistinct]

[Mallon Avalos] Have the peasants decided to march?

[Chavez] The march is fully confirmed. Peasants have great expectations but are cautious. We can also report that on Sunday evening they left their respective communities to [words indistinct] Everything is ready and we hope there will be no violence, that good sense will prevail [words indistinct] on 29 August. [end recording]

We understand that peasants are still gathering in Villa Tunari, from where they will begin the protest march on La Paz. [passage omitted]

A FIDES News Agency report carries a Ministry of Government communique issued yesterday. It states that the government has arrested several citizens for their alleged connection with a self- styled trade union police. This group intended to generate violence within the union movement in line with sectors operating in the vast Chapare tropical region.

The group is of a paramilitary nature, and it allegedly comprises, among others, of former CITE [Special Forces Training Center] and Military Police conscripts. The group was reportedly discovered by state intelligence organizations that have been following the coca farmers mobilizations announced for 29 August and antidrug Operation New Dawn.

Through an official communique issued on 28 August, the government admitted it has launched a military-police operation in the Chapare region to obstruct the coca farmers march. The communique is issued by the Social Communications Ministry. It states that, in view of the obvious lack of willingness to talk, the government has decided to undertake an operation to dissuade the staging of marches which will threaten innocent people.

The communique states that the government operation seeks to safeguard the right of free transit of people nationwide and to protect peasants who, pressured by certain leaders, have been obliged to take part in the march.

From Villa Tunari, Felipe Caceres, FETCTC secretary general, is reported as saying on 28 August that despite government threats, about 1,000 Chapare coca farmers will march on La Paz even if it means the end of the world.

[Contreras] At the instigation of Mobile Police Unit for Rural Areas [UMOPAR] and Special Antinarcotics Force [FELCN] troops, the scheduled nationwide coca farmers march, which was announced as a peaceful demonstration, may become very confusing. As evidence of this we will report on some examples of instigations in the last 48 hours.

FETCTC President Evo Morales was arrested on 27 August at about 2000 in (?Jacala). About 10 agents wearing civilian clothes arrested Morales as he was boarding the vehicle that would have taken him to Chapare.

Evo Morales, who is currently held in a Seip cell, has announced he is on a dry fast, that is, he will neither take water nor food until he regains his freedom. [passage omitted]

We have more evidence on the instigations against coca producers in the last 48 hours.

In view of charges by coca producers, whose names will be not disclosed for fear of reprisals, the following coca producers were arrested in Eterasama: Eteresama union leader Serafin Ramos, as he left the ENTEL [National Telecommunications Enterprise] booth at approximately 1500 yesterday, Crispin Rodriguez, and Joaquin Balderrama. Sources reported that two helicopters later took them to the Chimore barracks.

There are also reports stating that about 20 Caimans [reference unknown] loaded with military troops and several buses of the Bolivar bus line transported police and Armed Forces members to the Chimore barracks.

Union leaders Felipe Caceres, the FETCTC secretary general for the Tropical Federation, and FETCTC Financial Secretary German Felipe were almost rescued from a UMOPAR station wagon by residents of the town of 14 de Setiembre.

There are many more cases like these. It is clear that the march for territory, life, and dignity, will be staged after an emergency meeting early on Monday morning. [passage omitted]

COB Conditions Dialogue

PY2908193294 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] Bolivian Labor Federation [COB] Leader Carlos Camargo has said that the staging of the peasants march follows a decision of the national assembly and that the government must fulfill its agreement with the COB. They also demand the government's attention to current problems affecting Chapare.

[Begin Camargo recording] We demand an end to repression, arbitrary measures, and harassment within the framework of Operation New Dawn. We want an end to raids, illegal arrests of peasant leaders, and repression in Chapare where residents are living under a virtual state

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of siege at the hand of police, UMOPAR [Mobile Police Units For Rural Areas], and DEA forces.

We thus reassert our repudiation of this, and report that arrests have been made without court orders in open violation of all constitutional laws. [end recording]

The COB leader said that over 50 peasants have been arrested, among them [FETCTC, Special Federation of Peasant Workers of the Tropics] leader Evo Morales who was arrested without any legal grounds.

Carlos Camargo said there will be no dialogue with the government until the peasant leaders are released and the government repression stops.

Moreover, in the next few days, the COB plans to stage protest marches in support of the peasant march.

The Ministry of Government has reasserted that FETCTC leader Evo Morales will be placed at the disposal of the attorney general's office for having promoted the establishment of a peasant police force with the objective of disrupting order in the country.

Situation 'Normal' After Chapare Clash

PY3008032794 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Report by Mario Espinoza from Chapare—live]

[Excerpts] Good evening. It is now 2146, or to be more precise 2147. Here in Villa Tunari it is now about 30 degrees centigrade. We were told that it was about 35 degrees at 1400, when we arrived. Villa Tunari, as you may have seen in the clips sent by our correspondent here, was the stage for some spectacular actions. The coca growers, who were trying to begin their march, clashed with some 300 Umopar [Mobile Police Units for Rural Areas] agents, policemen, and officers from the Barrientos Regiment based here in Colomi. I was told that the clash was more spectacular than effective. The helicopters launched several dozens tear gas bombs to disperse the peasants.

At the moment the situation in the zone is absolutely normal. We have been able to interview several peasants, and they have told us that peasants are posted practically all along the road to Cochabamba awaiting orders from their leaders to get reorganized and resume their march at any moment. [passage omitted]

The police in Villa Tunari has assured us that tomorrow will be a completely normal day, as most of the peasant leaders have been arrested. Some 100 peasants have been taken to [name indistinct] headquarters and, according to the police, they will be released after the corresponding investigations have been carried out.

Victor Hugo Canelas has told us that the arrested peasants will be released soon under the promise of resuming normal activities without inciting people to march.

We were also informed by very reliable sources that a meeting is now taking place in Cochabamba to once again mobilize the peasants in that city and, we believe, that at least some 500 peasants will go from the town of Sacaba to Cochabamba in order to start the march early tomorrow morning. [passage omitted]

Armed Forces Leader Denies Uneasiness in Military

PY2708002794 Cochabamba LOS TIEMPOS in Spanish 13 Aug 94 p A7

[Excerpt] La Paz, 12 Aug (LOS TIEMPOS)—Armed Forces Commander General Fernando Sanjines Yanez announced today that the changes in the military leadership will not take place until late this year. He also said there is "tranquility, not dissatisfaction" within the military institutions.

Gen. Sanjines, who was alarmed and even surprised at the information over the last few hours about "internal uneasiness," said this is not true, as the large and small military units are carrying out their normal daily activities.

Sanjines said: "I just returned a few hours ago from the 9th Army Division in Rurrenabaque (Beni Department), and I did not feel any atmosphere of institutional dissatisfaction. I did not feel anything like that."

Although Sanjines did not want to identify the member of the Armed Forces who had made "unfounded comments against the Armed Forces" by reporting the "alleged atmosphere of instability," he said categorically that "the feelings of an officer do not represent the feelings of everyone."

He reiterated that on the request of President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada, the changes in the Armed Forces are scheduled for late this year. He added: "This is normal and correct." [passage omitted]

Congress Approves Economic Accord With Paraguay

PY2708031994 Santa Cruz EL MUNDO in Spanish 17 Aug 94 National Section p 3

[Text] La Paz, 16 Aug (ANF)—The Senate has reported that Congress has approved the Economic Complementation Agreement between Bolivia and Paraguay, which will be promulgated by President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada.

According to the Senate Finance Committee, within the framework of the 1980 Montevideo Treaty to strengthen the Latin American integration process through agreements between the member countries, the Economic Complementation Agreement has four objectives:

A) to strengthen economic and commercial relations by eliminating non-tariff restrictions; b) to promote the expansion and diversification of trade and improve

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access of products to the international markets; c) to stimulate the development of joint investment and association activities in production plans; and d) to facilitate the attraction of external financial services, the transfer of technology, and actions to facilitate transportation.

Administration of the binational agreement will be done through a commission made up of high-level executives of the two countries with the participation of a "business advisory committee" for consultation.

According to the Senate committee, the Economic Complementation Agreement offers the economic agents clear and predictable rules for the development of trade and investment, and encourages their more active participation.

Brazil

Cuba's Robaina Arrives, Interviewed on Issues

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 28 Aug (AE)—As part of his tour of several Latin American countries, Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina arrived in Brazil on 27 August, in the evening, for a meeting on 29 August with Brazilian President Itamar Franco, to whom he will deliver a letter sent by Fidel Castro. Robaina spent the day today in Rio de Janeiro, accompanied by Cuban Ambassador to Brazil Ramon Sanchez, and he dedicated a family doctor project unit imported from Cuba by the Niteroi municipality.

During an interview soon after dedicating the unit, named after Haydee Santamaria, one of the heroines of the La Moncada Barracks takeover, which initiated the Cuban revolution, Robaina spoke about the complex Cuban economic situation and about the exodus of Cubans to Florida, in the United States.

[Nepomuceno] Is the purpose of your meeting with President Itamar Franco to ask for Brazilian support in the dialogue with the United States?

[Robaina] That is not the purpose of this meeting, and President Fidel Castro does not make any such petition in his letter. We see no need for that because we always count on the understanding and support of Brazil, as was the case in the last Ibero-American summit meeting, when President Franco called for a more respectful treatment of Cuba.

[Nepomuceno] Is the massive exodus of Cubans a strategy to force the United States to establish a dialogue?

[Robaina] It is not a strategy, but Cuba does have its point of view regarding such a complex issue. We want to deal with the problem thoroughly because it is not strictly a migration problem. However, my country suggests initiating talks based on our point of view, not on that of the United States.

[Nepomuceno] Is the flight of Cubans the result of the people's dissatisfaction with the political regime? Are there any plans to redemocratize the country?

[Robaina] There are no proposals to redemocratize the country because Cuba implemented democracy many years ago. We do not have to accept what others think is perfect. We also have our opinion about what is done abroad in the name of democracy. We know that our democratic model is not perfect, but I ask for respect and understanding for Cuba.

[Nepomuceno] Is there any attempt to restrain the flight of Cubans?

[Robaina] Cuba has signed a migration agreement with the United States which allows the legal migration of 20,000 Cubans per year. We are not interested in stopping them. We do not want to end up with an unfair policy.

[Nepomuceno] Does Cuba wish to intensify trade relations with Brazil?

[Robaina] Cuba wants to intensify trade relations with the whole of Latin America, and with Brazil in particular. Brazil represents a lot economically for this continent and the rest of the world. We must not speak only of what Cuba needs; we must also speak about what Cuba can somehow offer. In the field of health and medicine, we have attained considerable accomplishments which may be useful in some parts of the world, particularly in Brazil.

[Nepomuceno] How has Cuba been harmed by the economic embargo imposed by the United States?

[Robaina] There has been a totally aggressive policy for many years. Our economy missed many billions and billions of dollars in investments. But for me the figures are not as important as the barrier that prevents Cuba from choosing its own path to reactivate its foreign trade.

[Nepomuceno] How has the economic crisis affected Cuban health services?

[Robaina] We have a shortage, we have problems in obtaining primary products, and this affects the basic activities in the health field. We have not, however, closed one single hospital, although we have implemented a more rational distribution of medicines.

[Nepomuceno] Will vaccine production be affected?

[Robaina] Our scientific industry lacks important medicines, thus harming many Cubans. We are not concerned with having medicines just for ourselves. We want to share our findings with the continent and the rest of the world.

U.S. Talks 'Will Begin This Week'

PY2908221494 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2032 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] Brasilia, 29 Aug (EFE)—Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina today asserted in the Brazilian capital

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that his country's dialogue with the United States about migration matters will begin this week in the UN headquarters in New York.

Robaina pointed out that the United States and Cuba are organizing their own delegations and deciding at what level the officials who will comprise them must be.

The Cuban minister said that his government plans to present a "clear" and "flexible" position.

[Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese on 27 August on page 16 publishes an 80-word unattributed report which notes: "Foreign Ministry sources have added that the Cuban Government is interested in the Brazilian Government's good offices in helping find a solution to the Cuban problem, not only with the United States but also within the OAS."]

Tlatelolco Treaty Accepted

PY3008014494 Sao Paulo AGENCIA ESTADO in Portuguese 2107 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Report by Diana Fernandes]

[Text] Juiz de Fora, 29 Aug (AE)—In a letter sent to President Itamar Franco, Cuban President Fidel Castro anticipated the Cuban Government's decision to sign the Tlatelolco Treaty banning nuclear weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean. In the letter, which was delivered today in Juiz de Fora by Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina, Fidel Castro stressed, however, that the resolution of the economic, commercial, and financial embargo imposed by the United States should in the future become a precondition for Cuba remaining a signatory country to the treaty.

Castro said: "Your Excellency is perfectly well aware of the meaning that signing such a treaty has for Cuba, which is under permanent threat from the only nuclear power in our hemisphere at a time when this power is intensifying its policy of blockade and strengthening its campaign against Cuba." Castro added that the decision to sign the treaty reveals the confidence that Cuba has in Latin America's future, and "once again shows our willingness to join the international community, even with the greatest sacrifices."

President Franco once again advocated an end to the economic and commercial embargo on Cuba, criticizing the isolation that the United States has imposed on Cuba. "Brazil has a clear position with respect to Cuba in our policy of extended hands, which believes that Cubans cannot remain isolated in this process, and especially in the process of the Americas." He added that U.S. President Bill Clinton should invite Fidel Castro to the Summit of the Americas scheduled for December in Miami. "Brazil wants to discuss the Cuban problem in the presence of Cuba," he stressed.

During the conversation with Foreign Minister Robaina, Franco said Brazil is convinced that Cuba is really opening the way for internal restructuring, by permitting, for example, the opening of its market to foreign private initiative. Robaina emphasized that Fidel Castro's initiative in signing the Tlatelolco Treaty does not aim to facilitate the negotiations for an end to the U.S. embargo. "It is a matter of Latin American feelings, so that we can promote unity and integration in the Americas."

Robaina reiterated that the U.S. Government does not have the will to resolve the problem, and that Cuba "cannot do anything to end the embargo." According to him, the problems between Cuba and the United States are being depicted merely as an issue of migration, "but there is actually a lot more than that."

Brazilian Foreign Minister Celso Amorim, who one month ago delivered to Fidel Castro a letter from Itamar Franco underlining the need for Cuba to sign the Tlatelolco Treaty, explained that Tlatelolco—which was launched in 1967—is now in force over the whole of Latin America and the Caribbean. Amorim also believes that the dialogue between Cuba and the United States should begin immediately, and that in light of Fidel's political will it might deal with other bilateral issues.

Franco Endorses U.S.-Cuban Talks

PY2908232594 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] President Itamar Franco has expressed support for the beginning of a dialogue between the United States and Cuba. He met Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina in Juiz de Fora, Minas Gerais State.

President Franco again asserted today in Juiz de Fora that the Brazilian policy regarding Cuba is that of an extended hand [mao estendida]. In Franco's opinion, Cuba is taking an important step toward its internal reorganization and opening up possibilities for foreign investment in the country. According to Franco, Brazil is aware of these intentions and thinks the U.S. Government should start a dialogue with Cuba, as it has already done with other countries that had previously embraced the communist line.

[Begin Franco recording] If the United States can hold talks with the DPRK and with other countries, such as Russia and Vietnam, why can't it establish a dialogue with Cuba? Obviously U.S. policies are none of our business; it is not up to us to interfere in U.S. policies; but we believe that it is important to adopt the policy of an extended hand. Cuba cannot be isolated in the process. [end recorded]

President Franco praised the Cuban Government's decision to sign the Tlatelolco Treaty, which contemplates an end to nuclear weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean. Minister Robaina gave the news to President Franco in a meeting at the rectory of the Juiz de Fora

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Federal University. The Cuban foreign minister handed President Franco a letter from Fidel Castro reporting the decision.

In Brasilia, Minister Robaina said that the United States and Cuba will soon begin to discuss the massive emigration of Cubans to Florida. Robaina met Foreign Minister Celso Amorim at the Foreign Ministry and told him that he hopes negotiations with the United States also include the U.S. economic embargo against Cuba, which has been in force for 31 years. Minister Robaina said that the two countries' delegations will meet in New York in the next few days.

Today in Brasilia, Robaina and Amorim also made some adjustments to the scientific and technological agreement signed by the two countries in 1987. The two ministers also signed an agreement allowing the two countries to jointly organize and conduct programs seeking to prevent drug addiction and drug trafficking.

Robaina Departs for Panama

PY3008001894 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2205 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] Brasilia, 29 Aug (EFE)—Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina said in Brasilia today that the dialogue on migration issues between his country and the United States will begin at UN headquarters in New York this week.

Robaina said both countries are preparing their delegations, adding that even though they have to begin a broad dialogue, "talking about the migration issue is a good step, and we have to wait for the talks to begin."

Robaina, who today ended a three-day visit to Brazil, said that his country had proposed to the United States that "responsible, deep, and far-reaching" conversations be held, considering that the conflict has gone beyond the issue of migration.

When its proposal was not accepted Cuba decided to address the migration issue, "with no prejudgment," at the bilateral talks that will begin in New York this week, Robaina said.

"We will not be anticipating what we will obtain from the talks, as we do not want to emphasize the results that we expect. Instead we will go with a clear position on what we will talk about, with flexibility and broad-mindedness," Robaina said during a press conference at Itamaraty Palace, the Brazilian Foreign Ministry headquarters.

In the city of Juiz de Fora, Robaina today held a 40-minute meeting with Brazilian President Itamar Franco, to whom he delivered a letter from Cuban chief of state Fidel Castro, in which the latter announces that Cuba will in the near future sign the Tlatelolco Treaty proscribing nuclear weapons in Latin America.

After the meeting, Robaina, who was accompanied by his Brazilian counterpart Celso Amorim, paid a one-hour visit to Brasilia to sign three bilateral agreements and to host a press conference, during which the letter by Castro was made public.

The agreements that were signed deal with control of the production, trafficking, and consumption of drugs, and with the promotion of cooperation in the areas of biotechnology, minerals, and geology.

From Brasilia, Robaina left for Sao Paulo, from which he left for Panama to attend the inauguration of Panamanian President Ernesto Perez Balladares, which will be held on 2 September and which will also be attended by Castro.

Brasilia was one of the last stopovers on a tour that over the past 8 days took Robaina to Ecuador, Chile, and Bolivia.

The Cuban foreign minister said he hopes the conversations with the United States will normalize the immigration situation between the two countries, based on the agreement signed in 1984, despite the fact that there are "new circumstances" now.

He added that the economic embargo that the United States has imposed for more than three decades "is linked with the migration problem," noting that despite the existing agreement, the U.S. side has "permanently encouraged illegal steps."

He said that Cuba is willing to engage in a dialogue, provided that its own voice, its independence, and its sovereignty are not harmed.

As for the possibility that Brazil or the Rio Group—which is Latin America's main forum—might mediate to broaden the dialogue with the United States, Robaina said that Cuba is not seeking such mediation, and that no mediation has been offered, either, noting that the only thing Cuba demands is a better understanding of its own situation.

Cardoso, Lula View Variety of Domestic Issues

Discuss Agrarian Reform

94SM0447A Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 12 Jun 94 p 8

[Article quoting answers from presidential candidates Luis Lula da Silva and Fernando Henrique Cardoso to JORNAL DO BRASIL questions—part one; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted]

[JORNAL DO BRASIL] (1) Do you consider agrarian reform an essential item on your platform? What would it be like? (2) How would you assess the landless people's movement?

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[Luis Inacio Lula da Silva]—PT [Workers Party] (PSB [Brazilian Socialist Party]/PC do B [Communist Party of Brazil]/PPS [Socialist People's Party]/ PSTU [Unified Social Workers Party]/PV [Green Party]/PCB [Brazilian Communist Party])

(1) If we had a model agrarian reform policy, we would not be experiencing occupations or invasions of land. We need to make a survey of the unproductive lands in each municipality. That would tell us who is in the countryside and wants to stay there. Only those who want to would go. What is vital is to carry out agrarian reform with subsidized credit, technical assistance, facilities for moving the product to market, and minimum price guarantees—as is done in any decent and democratic country in the world. If we take the European countries as an example, we see that the small and medium-sized rural properties are the center of production there.

(2) The landless people's movement has accomplished important things in Brazil. Publicity against the movement should instead be directed against officials' inability to solve the problem. With extremely rare exceptions, production has been above average at sites occupied by the landless. Each settler's average gain has been larger than the average gains of workers at other sites in this country. The landless will not attain citizenship until they get a plot of land to farm. If the government had a policy to achieve that, there would be no invasions. What happens is that the government is doing absolutely nothing.

[Fernando Henrique Cardoso] PSDB [Brazilian Social Democracy Party] (PFL [Liberal Front Party]/PTB [Brazilian Labor Party])

(1) Agrarian Reform is an important item among the priorities of employment and agriculture. As a matter of fact, it is high time we stopped talking and take action. These days, agrarian reform must no longer be an ideological banner, or used for political agitation. It is necessary for a balanced development of this country. I advocate a feasible agrarian reform program that is selective, that focuses on resolution of conflicts, and is supplemented by other programs, such as irrigation, rural electrification, farm credit, and technical assistance. Brazil has more than 50 million hectares of potentially irrigable land. However, less than 3 million hectares are irrigated now. In the Northeast, where water is vital, slightly more than 700,000 hectares are being irrigated. Irrigated land multiplies the number of jobs by five. Our goal is to irrigate 1.5 million hectares every year. This would be done from a social standpoint, combining irrigation with agrarian reform. Otherwise, irrigation projects will benefit only the big landowners.

(2) The landless today are being victimized on two counts. In the first place, by the unfair concentration of land ownership. In the second, they are victims of the PT, which, by its radical stance during the Constituent Assembly, blocked a modern and fair agrarian reform. The PT refused to join in an agreement with the other parties. The result is this: we are back to the situation that prevailed prior to the Land Statute that was promulgated by President Castelo Branco and actually looks progressive compared with the present situation. [passage omitted]

Advocate Improving Education

94SM0447B Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 19 Jun 94 p 8

[Article quoting answers from presidential candidates Luis Lula da Silva and Fernando Henrique Cardoso to JORNAL DO BRASIL questions—part two; date not given]

[Excerpts] [JORNAL DO BRASIL] (1) Would your administration give preference to increasing the number of classrooms or to the quality of education? (2) What do you think of the teachers' strikes? [passage omitted]

[Luis Inacio Lula da Silva]—PT/PSB/PPS/PC do B/ PSTU]

(1) Priority will be given to improving conditions in education, although we are clear that a considerable increase in the supply of education will make it necessary to build more classrooms. The idea is to exhaust the possibilities that now exist by using available spaces at union halls, churches, clubs, and other sites. At the same time, we will work on teacher qualifications and better teacher salaries.

(2) With the type of alternative that we are submitting for education, we are convinced that teacher strikes will diminish or be neutralized. Striking, however, is a right. The argument some have made against strikes in the health and education sectors is that these are essential sectors. They may be essential, but the argument is fallacious. If education is an essential sector, why has it not received more attention from the government?

We think that strikes can be handled in a civilized manner, as it is in European countries, by—for example—a system of self-regulation negotiated with the teachers.

[Fernando Henrique Cardoso] PSDB/PFL/PTB

(1) Priority will be given to the quality of instruction. Today, except in the Northeast and the rural areas, the shortage of openings in basic education is not really a serious problem. The biggest problem is repetition of grades, which is the result of poor instruction; eventually, it drives students away from school.

The key to improving quality is more effective management of the educational system. Brazil spends $350 per student per year. It is not much, but neither is it negligible. It would be enough to keep instruction from being so bad and teachers' salaries from being so low. What happens is that out of every CR$100 spent on education, only 50 actually reaches the classroom. The rest is lost in the bureaucracy; it goes down the drain, is

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wasted. So there really is a shortage of fund for paying teachers' salaries or buying school supplies and maintaining school buildings.

My administration's motto in education will be: less bureaucracy and more quality and satisfaction in the classroom. To accomplish this it is vital to move ahead with decentralization of the educational system. The federal government should not get involved in school construction and distribution of school lunches from Brasilia. The municipalities can do that better, and more cheaply. The federal government's investments in basic education will be directed toward teacher training and teacher refresher courses.

(2) What we have today, on the one hand, is a propensity to strike for reasons that are very often inconsequential. On the other, we have insensitivity on the part of governments—they prefer using the police over dialogue. This means everyone loses.

Teaching is not like the priesthood, where a life of privation is the rule. Teachers have the same dignity as any other worker and the same right to happiness. I think they might even agree to sacrifices, or partial granting of their demands, provided there is an effective and visible effort by officials to improve the conditions of education. What happens is that governmental insensitivity makes the contractors happy—schools are being built and everything else forgotten. The results are obvious: unmotivated teachers and students, and schools that have no supplies, lunches, or maintenance.

My prescription for changing this picture will be basically the same as Mario Covas used as mayor of Sao Paulo: effective priority for education and an open dialogue with teachers. During Covas' term in office between 1983 and 1985, the city of Sao Paulo did not experience one strike by teachers in the municipal system. [passage omitted]

Examine Economic Development

94SM0447C Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 26 Jun 94 p 8

[Article quoting answers from presidential candidates Luis Lula da Silva and Fernando Henrique Cardoso to JORNAL DO BRASIL questions—part three; date not given]

[Excerpts] [JORNAL DO BRASIL] (1) Is the Real Plan the solution to stabilization of the Brazilian economy? (2) If not, what should be the alternative, or how should the Real Plan be supplemented? [passage omitted]

[Fernando Henrique Cardoso] PSDB/PFL/PTB

(1) With the Real Plan, we are taking the most decisive step toward stabilization of the economy. We are exchanging a worthless currency for the *real*, which will be a strong and stable currency and, therefore, reliable. With a strong currency, we will defeat inflation. With the end of inflation, prices will be stable and the financial merry-go-round, with its easy and immediate profits, will come to a stop. The Real Plan is also the first step toward gradual recovery of [the purchasing power] of wages, since they will not be eaten up by inflation. Once the horizon is clear and stable, companies will be able to get back to investing in production, since they are already slim and trim, have no significant indebtedness, and have plenty of financial liquidity. More investments mean more jobs, more wages, and more consumption, especially of popular consumer goods. Inflation is the cruelest of the taxes that a worker pays. Until now, the wealthy could defend themselves from inflation by investing in the financial markets. The middle class raced to put money into certificates of deposit and savings accounts. The worker was the only one without any protection. This situation ends with the *real*, since [the value of] his wages will always be updated. Those presidential candidates who oppose the Real Plan must be in favor of hungry, misery, and inflation.

(2) The Real Plan is the first step toward stabilization, but other steps will have to be taken by my government. To start with, we have to carry out a comprehensive revision of the Constitution in 1995 in order to reorganize the State, create a new Federation of states, and bring about a comprehensive tax, fiscal, and social security reform. During the constitutional revision, we will have to open up monopolies and make them more flexible. Conservative figures tell us, for example, that breaking open the telecommunications monopoly would immediately bring investments of $4 billion into the private sector. There would be more jobs, and more wages at the very instant when society mobilizes against hunger and misery and the State has lost its investment capacity. A new Federation will place more responsibilities on the states and municipalities in vital areas like health and public education, which are in a state of collapse. Tax and fiscal reform will simplify that area, mainly by eliminating tax evasion. And social security reform will heal that sector so that retirees and pensioners can live in dignity. [passage omitted]

[Luis Inacio Lula da Silva]—PT/PSB/PPS/PC do B/PSTU]

(1) Not even Fernando Henrique believes that. Inflation has already burst out again. What they are going to do on 1 July is freeze Brazilian misery.

(2) We need to swap the high interest rates of speculation for conditions that foster investment in the production sector. Brazilian inflation is more a political inflation than an inflation of demand, as it has been defined. The question is political because it depends on how the government uses government funds, how it invests, and how it collects revenues. Besides, we need at least a minimum of political determination in order to keep an eye on violators, revenue collection, and prices. There is also a cultural component in Brazilian inflation, because each of us thinks he can charge whatever price he wants

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without respecting either the consumer or the State. In Brazil, the financial sector represents 13 percent of GDP, while in Germany, that figure is only 4.7 percent; in Japan it is 4.2 percent, and in the United States 2.5 percent. We need to talk with the financial sector about the interest rates issue, so that the State will have leeway to invest in the production sector. The question of prices and wages must be taken up by the sector chambers, a forum where workers, government, and business all have seats, so that prices, wages, and taxes can be set through debate. This has already been done in the auto industry. The government cut taxes, the company established wages after negotiations with the workers, and they ended up cutting prices by as much as 22 percent. [passage omitted]

Discuss Financial Reform

94SM0447D Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 7 July 94 p 4

[Article quoting answers from presidential candidates Luis Lula da Silva and Fernando Henrique Cardoso to JORNAL DO BRASIL questions—part four; date not given]

[Excerpts] [JORNAL DO BRASIL] (1) Do you believe financial reform is necessary? What kind of reform? (2) How can we shift capital from speculation into production? [passage omitted]

[Fernando Henrique Cardoso] PSDB/PFL/PTB

(1) Banking and financial legislation in Brazil is fairly advanced. Problems arise in the financial area whenever the ties between the monetary authority and the government are too close. That was what led to violations of legislation on many occasions. That process has been changing since 1985, when there has been a gradual separation of government accounts from those of the monetary authorities. The provisional measure that established the *real* advances even further in this direction, by making the Central Bank more independent. The Fernando Henrique administration would continue this process of increasing modernization of the Brazilian financial system. It will emphasize the need to supervise the financial institutions so as to ensure that the funds the public entrusts to it are not diverted in favor of the interests of groups that want to manipulate the functioning of the system.

(2) Financial speculation in Brazil has always been associated with the perception by the economic agents that the public sector is financially weak. The fiscal crisis kept the State from dealing with speculation. Today, the government is in a better position than ever to eliminate financial speculation, given that public finances are in balance and inflation is being eliminated because of the introduction of the *real*. These facts should by themselves bring about a significant reduction in the mechanisms that feed financial speculation. Fiscal equilibrium and a drastic reduction in the inflation rate will lower real interest rates in the economy in the near future, which will contribute even further to curb speculation in Brazil. Macroeconomic equilibrium will make it possible, starting next year, for the Fernando Henrique government—just as has been happening on other countries that went through an economic adjustment, such as Chile—to start considering specific measures to stimulate mid-term and long-range investment, to the detriment of short-term investments.

[Luis Inacio Lula da Silva]—PT/PSB/PPS/PC do B

(1) Yes, we think a thorough financial reform is necessary, since right now it is not possible even to have a monetary policy, since the mechanisms by which the Bank of Brazil could act have been destroyed. A solid financial merry-go-round has been set up in this country. We need to take it apart. To do that, we must recreate the open market, which does not exist today, because banks are only allowed to invest in government bonds. We are going to open up the open market [preceding words in English] and actively pursue a policy of financing public spending by paying appropriate interest rates, not the high rates that have been the rule. We will also have to stretch out the profile of the internal debt.

(2) With the reduction in interest rates, financing for production will certainly be available. Furthermore, the PT plans to create special production financing mechanisms in those areas deemed essential to the plan to create a huge consumer market in Brazil. No important changes are planned in the treatment of foreign capital and the stock markets. We still do not have a definite idea about the foreign exchange regime, but plan to implement an active exchange policy which, in principle, rules out a fixed exchange rate. Our policy will seek to preserve an adequate level of reserves. [passage omitted]

Consider Role of State

94SM0447E Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 17 July 94 p 3

[Article quoting answers from presidential candidates Luis Lula da Silva and Fernando Henrique Cardoso to JORNAL DO BRASIL questions—part five; date not given]

[Excerpt] [JORNAL DO BRASIL] (1) In your opinion, what is the relationship between the State and the Brazilian crisis? (2) Under your administration, what role would the State play in the economy?

[Fernando Henrique Cardoso] PSDB/PFL/PTB

(1) Solving the Brazilian crisis necessarily entails a far-reaching reform of the State and of the Federation during the constitutional revision that I am going to propose to the parties and the public right away, in 1995. The State has lost its ability to invest and, therefore, to promote development, justice, and social welfare. Look at the crises in education and in health. Furthermore, the 1988 Constitution gave the states and cities a series of

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rights, with no counterbalancing responsibility shared with the federal government. My proposal for reform of the State will face up to corporativist interests in order to create the instruments of a new coordination between the country and the world order, so that we do not simply drift aimlessly or remain at the mercy of a disgraced statism. This reform of the State will make it more competent, more oriented toward social innovation and less tied to the corporativist interests of the state enterprises, the politics of self-interest, or clientelism.

(2) Contrary to those who preach a minimalist State and, waving the banner of the free market, actually advocate high profits and excessively high salaries for private sector executives without any social counterpart, I as a candidate am committed to a slim and trim State that is stronger, so that it can correct the distortions of the market and carry out social politics in favor of the redemption of the poorest. That is why I am also fighting against clientelism and corporativism, which undermine the effectiveness of the State and tie it to the interests of minorities.

[Luis Inacio Lula da Silva]—PT/PSB/PPS/PC do B/PSTU

(1) The Brazilian State has always been extremely competent when it comes to giving funds to the private sector, investing in the economic infrastructure, and administering a process of economic growth with the kind of concentration that made Brazil's economy rank seventh in the world. However, the Brazilian State has been unable to generate income distribution and well-being for the common people. The Brazilian crisis is a crisis of the State, which must not hold onto those characteristics. It cannot continue to be irresponsibly servile to the interests of the major economic groups and managed by a cowardly elite that has no master plan for this country. We want to change this State. That is why the PT is presenting the best platform for bringing about the social transformations that Brazil needs.

(2) If we take as example all the economies that emerged from the 1980's in the best shape—such as the German, the Japanese, and the Korean, we can see that the State is strong, but at the same time it serves as a manager on economic questions, subordinated to the welfare of the common people. Those countries believe in their national projects, which is not the case in Brazil. What we want for Brazil is a strong and efficient State, which does not mean it has to be big. We want to change the relationship between the State and Brazilian society as a whole. It must no longer be in the hands of a few, to benefit the few. The State in Brazil must assume a commitment to include the millions of Brazilians who do not enjoy even the minimum benefits of citizenship—health, education, housing, and food. The Brazilian elites and the successive governments have proved incapable of satisfying those demands, which to the ordinary citizen are simple and fundamental. The PT government will fulfill the commitment to rescue citizenship in Brazil. [passage omitted]

View Free Election Air Time

94SM0447F Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 24 July 94 p 8

[Article quoting answers from presidential candidates Luis Lula da Silva and Fernando Henrique Cardoso to JORNAL DO BRASIL questions—part six; date not given]

[Excerpts] [JORNAL DO BRASIL] (1) Do you think the new rules on free electoral air time are appropriate? (2) Do you think that it opens up a new phase in the election? If so, why? [passage omitted]

[Fernando Henrique Cardoso] PSDB/PFL/PTB

(1) The rules were changed in an attempt to make election broadcasts truly a space for propaganda which, while not exactly free, is more egalitarian in content. What had been happening in recent elections, unfortunately, is that with technological advances and the ever-increasing sophistication of the programs, the free political air time was becoming very expensive, actually prohibitive for the less well-funded candidates and, what is more serious, was becoming a lovely variety show—that's all. Obviously this ran counter to the spirit of the law; what the legislators had in mind when they created the electoral air time was to make it possible for truly mass media to be used by parties and candidates, regardless of their financial status, to show off their platforms and discuss their ideas. The way things were, the one who put on the best program was the one with the most money, with the additional disadvantage that, in a complete distortion, people began to consider the "best" program to be the one that featured the most name entertainers, that used the most innovative technological pyrotechnics—in short, the one who was able to stage the best show shined the brightest. From now on, what we will see on the screen is the bare face of each candidate, backed only by his platform—no subterfuges, no hoaxes. A true "eyeball-to-eyeball" approach that can only benefit the voter, who will finally be in a position to become acquainted with and talk about each of the proposals being offered him in exchange for his vote.

(2) I am sure that it will, and I am convinced that I can only gain by this. During this phase, the voter will be given a real opportunity to study the proposals of each candidate, and I have no doubt that I have the best platform and, for that very reason, my candidacy will be the one that gains the most ground. The public will have the means to make that judgment, since the air time will be limited to the candidates. The special-effects wars that had become typical of this phase of the campaign are now banned. Finally, it will be a phase in which the platforms will start taking on an enormous, more-than-justified, importance. The matter of "who is supporting who" ceases to be excessively influential, making possible more thorough discussions about what is really of interest—each candidate's plans for solving the country's problems.

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[Luis Inacio Lula da Silva]—PT/PSB/PPS/PC do B/PSTU

(1) No. I think the election law restricts candidates from putting on the kind of TV program that best informs the voter. I believe one of the objectives was to hurt the PT, which has always presented the best program in all the campaigns. The ban against showing outside shots and scenes recorded with the people is truly censorship. The law is absurd, and just as bad as the Falcao Law, which was used in the military dictatorship to prevent the common people from becoming politically aware.

(2) Yes. Despite this law, TV election programs are the only way to try to balance the quality and veracity of the information the voter receives. All the media have chosen their candidates already, but they do not have the courage to say so. Thus the program will help the PT inform people accurately and to publicize its platform, without the prejudice and disinformation transmitted by the big guns of the Brazilian media. [passage omitted]

Review Position of Vice President

94SM0447G Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 31 July 94 p 8

[Article quoting answers from presidential candidates Luis Lula da Silva and Fernando Henrique Cardoso to JORNAL DO BRASIL questions—part seven; date not given]

[Excerpts] [JORNAL DO BRASIL] (1) During the constitutional revision, it was proposed that the office of vice president be eliminated. Were you for or against that? (2) If elected, what powers do you plan to give your vice president? [passage omitted]

[Fernando Henrique Cardoso] PSDB/PFL/PTB

(1) I held the post of finance minister when the constitutional revision got under way. So I was not in the Senate and could not vote. Under a parliamentary system, there is no need for a vice president since the president of the Republic is only the chief of State; the prime minister is the head of government. The existence of the position of vice president is typical of the presidential system.

(2) My vice president will have important duties in political liaison between the government and the Congress, the parties, and the governors.

[Luis Inacio Lula da Silva]—PT/PSB/PPS/PC do B/PSTU

(1) Did not answer this question.

(2) The powers depend a lot on the kind of vice president. In the case of Aloizio Mercadante, he is a dynamic politician who, because of his background, will naturally have duties in the economic area of the future government. [passage omitted]

Debate Control Over Judiciary

94SM0447H Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 7 August 94 p 3

[Article quoting answers from presidential candidates Luis Lula da Silva and Fernando Henrique Cardoso to JORNAL DO BRASIL questions—part eight; date not given]

[Excerpts] [JORNAL DO BRASIL] (1) Are you in favor of external control over the Judiciary? (2) How can the Judiciary be controlled without interfering in the judges' decisions? [passage omitted]

[Luis Inacio Lula da Silva]—PT/PSB/PPS/PC do B/PSTU

(1) It is important to emphasize that the proposed control does not affect the independence of magistrates in terms of their exercise of jurisdiction. We are not looking for ways to keep tabs on the Judiciary, but rather to establish a system of institutionalized control by society, which is part of the larger picture of the democratization of this country. I do not believe we can think in terms of setting up permanent organs of control, but rather collegiate bodies that would handle special cases. The members would be hand-picked from civic organizations.

(2) The independence of judges must be maintained at all costs. That is why I believe that magistrates, attorneys, and the public should take part in the discussion. Above all, I believe that new ways to regulate the granting of life tenure and awarding promotions must be studied. By no means do we want some committee of patrolmen monitoring those who govern the actions of the courts. [passage omitted]

[Fernando Henrique Cardoso] PSDB/PFL/PTB

(1) Yes. Today the Judiciary is the only level of power over which there is no external control, and mechanisms to do that must be created, if only as a way to make the courts more responsive. In my opinion, the best model for this control was the one suggested by Deputy Nelson Jobim during the constitutional revision, but, unfortunately, it was not approved. Jobim's proposal was to create a national collegiate body, the National Council of Justice, composed of representatives of the magistracy and the public, which would be in charge of administrative and disciplinary control over the Judiciary Branch. This measure calls for inclusion of a mechanism that would ban judges from receiving allowances or contributions and from improperly disclosing information. Such control would, for example, make it possible to punish magistrates with removal from office in cases of negligence and behavior incompatible with the decorum and dignity of the position.

(2) Maintaining independence in the decisions by judges is vital. Without it, what you would have would be simple solutions of force, of illegality. To preserve the

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independence of judges, the ideal thing would be for an organ assigned to control the Judiciary not to be tied to any of the other branches of government—that would mean a risk of excessive interference by the political powers. It is never amiss to remind people that the freedom and autonomy of the Judiciary is the guarantee of the rule of law. That is why the council responsible for monitoring the judiciary would have to be independent of the other branches, and hybrid in its composition. [passage omitted]

Common Points in Cardoso, Lula's Agricultural Programs Detailed

PY2908165994 Sao Paulo AGENCIA ESTADO in Portuguese 0018 GMT 25 Aug 94

[Text] Sao Paulo, 25 Aug (AE)—The government programs of PSDB [Brazilian Social Democracy Party] candidate Fernando Henrique Cardoso and PT [Workers Party] candidate Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva have common points in the area of agriculture. Both have land reform as their target and both provide for the strengthening of the agricultural industry through incentives to owners of small farms, and for an irrigation policy in the northeastern region.

They are proposals befitting any presidential candidate in spite of some differences in the figures, in the stages to be reached during the government term, and—in some cases—in approach.

In addition to addressing the issue in his government program, Lula has a specific 35-page project for agriculture entitled: "Land, Work, and Food for Brazilians." Here are some of the common points in the platforms of Cardoso and Lula:

Settlement: Cardoso promises to face agrarian problems "within the principles of law and order." His goal is to achieve what he calls "a responsible agrarian reform" by settling 100,000 families over four years, but he does not mention costs. Lula's agrarian reform proposal envisages a 15-year program even though his possible mandate lasts only four years. During his four years in office he intends to settle 800,000 families at a cost of $7.92 billion, without considering land costs. His project provides for the settled worker paying for his land in installments, "following a grace period until he becomes a rural producer."

Irrigation: During his first year in government Cardoso wants to irrigate 300,000 hectares of land, of which one-third is in the northeast. He intends to create public irrigation projects in the region and to finance private projects to cover 1.5 million hectares by the end of his administration. Lula's program asserts that his government will end "the lack of unity" among public institutions in the semi-arid northeast. He will attempt to reverse the negative impact of government intervention" on populations in the irrigation project areas. He says 1.5 million hectares could be irrigated with local water resources which are already stored or could be stored. The land that could be irrigated "in the short term" comprises about 1 million hectares.

Agro-Industry: Cardoso says he will encourage agro-industries in interior cities as a base on which to "intensify development" and to create jobs. Lula wants to encourage the installation of agro-industries in municipalities with less than 20,000 inhabitants "to increase the aggregated value of the local production and to avoid "harvest migrations" to absorb the excess labor force. Both candidates guarantee full support to agro-industries in the northeast. [quotation marks as received]

Small Producer Incentives: Cardoso and Lula promise to strengthen family agricultural production. Cardoso points out that this will guarantee supply at lower costs, create jobs, and increase the salaries of low income workers. Lula stresses that family agriculture will increase production and incomes, and create jobs. They both speak of granting technical and financial support to small producers and encouraging the creation of cooperatives. Lula differentiates when he speaks of large producers: He seeks the end of fiscal incentives for large rural properties.

Government Seeks New Financing Sources

PY2908191594 Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 21 Aug 94 p 5

[Article by Maria Helena Tachinardi]

[Text] Brasilia—The Brazilian Government is seeking new sources of foreign financing in countries like Korea, Denmark, Hungary, and Spain to obtain funds for state and municipal administrations which no longer receive loans from traditional financial organizations like the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank [IDB].

The International Affairs Secretariat (Seain) of the Seplan [Secretariat for Planning and Coordination of the Presidency of the Republic] is negotiating with the EDCF [Economic Development Cooperation Fund] of Korea—one of the 63 government-registered credit institutions—for financing of public projects, particularly infrastructure and sanitary works programs and equipment purchase plans. Therefore, this is an interesting alternative fund source for states and municipalities because the Korean agency offers credits worth a minimum of $5 million, with interest rates ranging from 2.5 to 5 percent per year, a 7-year grace period, repayment terms ranging between 20 and 25 years, and 85 percent participation insofar as total funds needed is concerned.

EDCE credits do not include demands like purchasing Korean products, says Seain chief Jorge Marques Leandro. He says that the traditional financing sources do not offer the Korean kind of financing. The World Bank, for example, offers a minimum financing of $100 million, and its costs are much higher.

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The World Bank charges a 7.27 percent interest rate per year, grants a 5-year grace period, and a repayment term of nearly 12 years. Beside this, it also demands 50 percent worth of matching funds from domestic resources, a demand that has hindered the government's access to World Bank financing given the government fiscal crisis.

The World Bank has reduced its loans to Brazil from nearly $4 billion in the past to a maximum $1 billion this year, Leandro says. According to him, Brazil has not ceased to present projects for financing: There are 24 projects being negotiated with the World Bank and an additional 21 "waiting to be submitted" at the annual programming meetings. Some projects, however, do not obtain financing because they do not meet World Bank priorities such as environmental preservation, modernization of the state apparatus, and development in the private sector.

The Seain will begin to negotiate with three other credit institutions interested in financing Brazilian projects: the official Hungarian agency; the Eximbank of Korea; and the Fecoex, Foreign Trade Promotion Inc. of Spain.

The Danish Industrialization Fund for Developing [four preceding words in English] wants to participate in "joint ventures" [preceding two words in English] in Brazil and in co-financing. The Seain's intention is to establish credit lines according to sectors. For example: Gather 10 Brazilian municipalities interested in obtaining financing for telecommunications projects and negotiate a $3 million project with a financial agent instead of negotiating several operations of minor value.

The policy of alternative financial resources, which was initiated a month ago by the Seain, takes into account the changes experienced by the large financiers of the Brazilian public sector: the World Bank and the IDB.

According to Luiz Afonso Simoens da Silva, chief of the Department of Agreements and International Financial Organizations (Deori) of the Central Bank, the World Bank is against Brazilian interests because it wants to grant resources to Africa, increase credits for East European countries to help them in their transition from socialism to capitalism, prioritize fields like the environment and information dissemination policies to the detriment of infrastructure works (which are essential for Brazil), and finance the private sector to the detriment of the public sector.

Beside this, Brazil currently has less political weight in the World Bank, especially after the bank created in June a directorship placing Brazil together with the rest of the Mercosur [Common Market of the South] members and Chile. For the past 10 years Brazil had an exclusive directorship.

Brazil also lost space in the IDB. In its recent administrative reshuffle, Brazil lost its operations management, the third most important post of the institution and a position normally held by a Brazilian.

In the past few years, the World Bank and the IDB interfered in the national policies of countries, increasingly imposing conditions, especially in the field of environment, human rights, policy toward Indian groups, and labor relations. In addition, the World Bank demanded the privatization of power companies. The World Bank no longer grants credits for the power sector, given the absence of a Brazilian policy to update public utility rates.

In face of the stabilization of the economy, the Brazilian Government is already working on alternative financing sources. "Some private markets have grown at an enormous rate, something that has not happened with multilateral organizations. In relative terms, the importance of multilateral organizations has diminished. But these resources are still important for Brazil. According to Simoens, if the Brazilian Government modernizes and increases its access to the alternative markets, the future trend would be to reduce its dependency on multilateral financing institutions.

As long as this does not take place, Simoens asserts that "it is necessary to insist on the niches that are interesting for us in the World Bank and IDB, such as infrastructure and modernization of the state apparatus. According to Simoens, the Brazilian priority should be the IDB, which this year announced disbursements of $5 billion for Brazil in the next four years, despite the increasing concern of the IDB with the social field, "an area that is not a great job generating field like infrastructure," says Simoens. Brazil is also interested in Integration resources.

Treasury Restricts Endorsement of States' Foreign Loans

PY2708033494 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 24 Aug 94 p 2

[Text] Brasilia—In keeping with the economic policy, the government will not endorse the foreign loans contracted by state and municipal governments that increased prices, utility rates, and salaries after 1 June. This is one of the main conditions established yesterday by the Finance Ministry for authorizing Treasury endorsements, under the exceptions provided for by Provisional Measure 566, which set the rules for issuance of the real. This resolution will strongly affect the Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Campinas, and Goiania municipal governments, which were asking for Treasury endorsements.

According to the resolution, which was published by DIARIO OFICIAL yesterday, Treasury endorsements of loans contracted by state and municipal governments and by state-run enterprises will be tied to a commitment to avoid increasing prices, utility rates, and salaries. In practice, this means that whoever makes adjustments

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beyond the IPC-R [Consumer Price Index-Real] will lose the right to receive federal endorsements. Federal endorsements will be canceled until 30 September.

The decision on whether to grant an endorsement will be made by the finance minister. Before this the Treasury will evaluate the "timeliness and advantages of projects" provided the applicant for endorsement has met a series of requirements. State and municipal governments and state-run enterprises will have to prove that they are up-to-date with their payments to the federal government, to the INSS [National Social Security Institute], and to the FGTS [Severance Pay Fund]; that they have repayment capacity; that they are within the indebtedness limits established by the Senate; that they will earmark budget allocations for matching funds; and that the projects will have no impact on the issuance of money. That is to say, the government will not grant endorsements for obtaining foreign loans before March.

The economic team believes that the measure will serve as a barrier for pressure from governors, mayors, and state-run company directors, and will safeguard the money issuance targets and the plan to close the fiscal year without a Treasury deficit. In order to strengthen the terms of the resolution, the Finance Ministry will propose to President Itamar Franco a decree on the general concession of endorsements.

Federal Funding for Navy Nuclear Program Reduced

PY2908133394 Sao Paulo AGENCIA ESTADO in Portuguese 2346 GMT 26 Aug 94

[Text] Ipero, 26 Aug (AE)—Navy Ministry Materiel Director Admiral Domingos Alfredo Silva said today in Ipero that the Federal Government has drastically reduced the disbursement of funds for the nuclear program that is being developed by the Navy, whose objective is to build a nuclear submarine. The program, however, is considered a priority for the Navy and it will continue to be maintained with funds from the Navy budget, he said. The admiral visited Ipero today to swear in the new administrator of the Aramar Experimental Center, Vice Admiral Arlindo Viana Filho. He is replacing Vice Admiral Othon Luiz Pinheiro da Silva, who has retired. Adm. Domingos Alfredo Silva said that it is in the national interest to continue with the nuclear program.

Removal From German Sensitive Technology List Examined

PY2608223094 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 19 Aug 94 p A3

[Editorial from the "Notes and Information" page: "The Fruits of a Policy"]

[Text] The removal of Brazil from the "H List" by the German Government is one of the visible effects of the new dimensions of Brazilian foreign policy. The lack of confidence with which the international community regarded Brazil was caused, to a considerable extent, by the lack of a clear commitment to the policies of nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction—a demand that has become usual among the main producers of sensitive technology. For a long time Brasilia believed that it could produce and do research on sensitive weapons and technologies without respecting the regimes for nonproliferation and technology transfer control, and that we could even receive the sophisticated technology we needed. This wrong attitude caused Brazil to distance itself from the main sensitive technology production centers. The narrowminded mentality of that time linked the technological blockade with the need to follow an independent course, thus giving rise to a second mistake: confusing the independent development of technology for policies that isolated Brazil from the rest of the world.

Some three years ago, however, Brasilia realized that isolation entails a political and economic price that is disproportionately high if compared with the little benefit it yields. The government then decided to break, through diplomatic channels, the veil of discredit that separated Brazil from the international community. The clear definition of the roles attributed to the Armed Forces in sensitive technology programs, and the statements giving clear explanations of the plans for use of sensitive technologies and materials, were followed by agreements aimed at giving political credibility and legal protection to such statements. The result of this was the creation of ABACC [Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control] and the signing of a quadripartite nuclear safeguard agreement, the modification and ratification of the Tlatelolco Treaty, the creation of the Brazilian Space Agency, and the unilateral adoption of the Missile Technology Control Regime [MTCR] guidelines.

This set of measures, destined to remove Brazil from the list of countries affected by restrictions on the transfer of dual-purpose technology, was met by incomprehensible resistance from Congress. In full disharmony with the external commitments taken by the government, Congress has either forgotten or given very slow treatment to the bills that are necessary for enforcing the agreements and nuclear safeguards. The bill regulating trade and transfer of sensitive technology and materials—without which the country will be unable to legally enforce MTCR guidelines—is still awaiting approval, after being under the consideration of Congress for two years. Even without this law, the German Council of Ministers—like other countries—lifted the restrictions affecting Brazil. It is a pity that the Bonn Government had more confidence in this policy than Brazilian congressmen did.

Consequently, despite the Brazilian Congress, the German Government lifted the restrictions on the exportation of dual-purpose materials, which had been in force since 1991 and which affected, among others, nuclear energy, chemicals, missiles, and satellites. The restrictions did not harm government programs alone. In fact,

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there were not just a few Brazilian enterprises whose expansion and modernization programs were hindered by the German Government's refusal to authorize the exportation of machine tools and materials that could also be used for military purposes, a position that was shared by other Western countries that follow the same criteria.

The German decision follows a measure that Washington adopted in June. The restrictions on the purchase of advanced technology by Brazil are no longer political in nature. They now depend on the natural course of the economy. The completion of new phases of growth through the transfer of technology will depend on the dynamics of our industrial park, and on the capacity of enterprises and of the government to invest in research and development.

Chile

Fujimori's Lima Accord Decision Surprising

PY2908203794 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 1800 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] The Chilean Government has voiced its surprise over Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori's decision to withdraw the Lima Convention from Congress.

Chilean Foreign Minister Carlos Figueroa said that this would delay the approval of this agreement, which has already been signed by the governments of the two countries.

[Begin Figueroa recording] All the information we have are the comments by President Fujimori, who said that the purpose of his decision is to step up internal dialogue in Peru to allow the ratification of the Lima Convention. I would therefore not say that the process involving such an important agreement for the two countries, as it resolves pending issues from the 1929 Treaty, has failed. We are now summoning to Chile our ambassador in Peru to obtain firsthand information on the official stance of the Peruvian Government. [end recording]

Minister Figueroa has stated that according to Fujimori, the withdrawal of the Lima Convention from the Peruvian Congress will delay its approval, but does not mean the end of the agreement. This agreement is designed to finally resolve the pending issues of the 1929 Treaty between Chile and Peru.

Colombia

Samper Announces New Central Intelligence Office

PA2908194894 Paris AFP in Spanish 2352 GMT 24 Aug 94

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 24 Aug (AFP)—President Ernesto Samper announced on Wednesday the creation of an extensive central intelligence office that will make it possible to preempt actions by terrorists, fight impunity and corruption, and regain the people's trust.

"Only through greater efforts can we successfully meet the challenge we are facing. That is why we basically need more and better intelligence," the head of state noted during the swearing in of Ramiro Bejarano, the new Administrative Department of Security chief. The central intelligence office will make it possible to coordinate in an efficient manner the operational efforts the state security corps is conducting on different fronts, Samper added.

In stressing that this entity will maintain a permanent offensive against the various forms of violence currently threatening the country, the president asked citizens for their cooperation, because "they cannot continue playing the role of silent partners in the government's pacification efforts."

The president added: "With this new central intelligence office, which will begin to be organized starting today, the government will no longer be arriving late in the struggle against violence."

Security Department Director Remarks on Mission

PA2708121494 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Canal A in Spanish 1730 GMT 23 Aug 94

[Report by Julie Masales from the "Midday Television Newscast"]

[Text] A 42-year-old trial lawyer is the new DAS [Administrative Department of Security] director. Ramiro Bejarano Guzman, who specialized in private law at the Sorbonne in Paris, will be in charge of converting DAS into a new central intelligence agency:

[Begin Bejarano recording] My task will be to modernize intelligence operations, provide it with the most important technical and human resources, and put it on the same level with the latest worldwide intelligence techniques. Do not think my arrival at DAS means I will try to impose intelligence activities on the rest of the agencies; not at all. Intelligence work in civilized countries is handled not by one agency alone but, rather, through a number of agencies. [end recording]

Bejarano has teaching in his blood. He dedicated the last 20 years of his life to university lecture rooms. His most difficult task will be getting used to being a public figure:

[Begin recording] [Masales] Have you ever had bodyguards?

[Bejarano] Never! Never in my life! I confess it is difficult for someone who has lived among books, codes, and students to change his routine, but I believe that point has to be overcome. [end recording]

Bejarano says his main challenge will be to take the top security agency a giant step forward.

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Attorney General's Office on Human Rights Abuses

PA2708230694 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Canal A Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Aug 94

[From the "Seven O'Clock Newscast"]

[Text] The perturbing report by the Attorney General's Office reveals that torture, murder, forced disappearances, arbitrary arrests, and injuries against civilians by members of government security organizations increased by almost 20 percent during 1993. Aggressions by the police and Army against the people have almost doubled in comparison to 1992. This reason is why the Attorney General's Office emphatically states those two organizations are the primary perpetrators of violence in the country.

According to the report by the Attorney General's Office, the increase in human rights violations is caused by the lack of education of Armed Forces members, the badly termed esprit de corps, which allows aggression to be confused with the compliance of duty, and the concealment of many irregular actions within security organizations.

The greatest number of violations were registered in Antioquia, Santander, and the coastal area. The paradox is that sanctions and sentences, as well as citizens' complaints, have decreased in those areas.

The Attorney General's Office warns, however, the increment in aggressions has caused the country to pay approximately 200 billion pesos in compensation in the past three years. This bleak report on the state of human rights in Colombia concludes if the government and the Armed Forces do not implement urgent measures in this regard, the country will have to face severe political and economic sanctions from the international community.

Defense Minister Fernando Botero has received the Attorney General's Office report with concern, and he announced changes to improve the human rights situation:

[Begin Botero recording] The Defense Ministry has received with concern the preliminary media reports on the report by the Attorney General's Office on human rights.

Violations of human rights in no way represent an institutional policy of the Colombian Government in general or the Defense Ministry in particular.

There have been, unfortunately, isolated cases of violations of human rights in which several officials, soldiers, and policemen have been involved. The cases have been investigated, and the culprits have been sanctioned in accordance with the corresponding laws.

The Defense Ministry will hesitate in no way in developing a clear and vigorous policy to defend human rights. [end recording]

Defense Minister on Commitment to Human Rights

PA2708005394 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Aug 94

[Telephone interview with Defense Minister Fernando Botero by Dario Arizmendi and an unidentified reporter; from "Caracol's 0600 to 0900" newscast; broadcast in progress—live]

[Excerpt] [Arizmendi] ...or Amnesty International with what has to do with human rights violations.

[Botero] Dario, I think the important thing is to be able to recognize problems when they exist [words indistinct]. In the past, human rights violations were often ignored. In my opinion, that is no way to solve the problem. That is why in this case—in agreement with the president of the Republic—we decided to accept the preliminary reports on the study by the Attorney General's Office. We accepted it with concern because apparently there is evidence [words indistinct].

Of course, there is no political formula, official policy, or institutional policy on human rights at the Defense Ministry level; none whatsoever. We cannot deny, however, that there are many isolated cases related to the conduct of some officers, agents, and soldiers which have led to human rights violations.

This new government wants to make a clear commitment to respond—not to problems of the past, which apparently did occur—but to problems of the future, which are [words indistinct]. This is the clear, vigorous policy to defend human rights that has been adopted by the Defense Ministry and all state institutions to see that Colombia's image can be recovered on a domestic and especially on an international level, given the serious problems we have faced in this area. This is a national goal with top priority and a goal to which the Defense Ministry is totally committed.

[Arizmendi] Minister Botero, a report by the Attorney General's Office indicates that in 1993 only 109 sentences were handed down in response to more than 2,000 to 3,000 charges filed against officers, noncommissioned officers, and agents of the various branches of Colombia's military forces. Is the new administration committed to expediting the process and thoroughly investigating all accusations filed to find the responsible parties; that is, to go from words to actions.

[Botero] Dario, [words indistinct]. The report also indicates that the number of victims decreased 36 percent between 1992 and 1993, which is a positive development. Now, as for the issue you pointed out, it will clearly be the administration's policy [words indistinct] to declare those found guilty. As for the general procedure of the military criminal justice system, the government also announced yesterday, perhaps committed itself with the reforms, to make this justice system more

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[words indistinct], quicker, and more severe regarding [words indistinct] and regarding appeals.

[Arizmendi] You have announced the creation of a human rights office under the Defense Ministry that will deal with the administration of public force. It has been said that human rights offices will be organized in the various military battalions and garrisons throughout national territory. How are these offices going to operate? From a practical point of view, is it possible for a person, a normal citizen, to come before a battalion at a garrison to press charges against a soldier, against a military member of any rank, without running a risk?

[Botero] [Words indistinct] the following. We are going to appoint [words indistinct], she is a very respected, educated person, well-known on a national level. She also has very broad knowledge of this issue. She was director of the human rights offices in the ministry. She will be responsible for decentralizing the effort so there are offices in all military garrisons and battalions.

These offices will have many duties. In my opinion, the most important is the preventive action [words indistinct] when this type of problem is recorded through training, through the use of report cards [cartillas], [words indistinct], through the development of a consciousness inside the public force [words indistinct] this phenomena.

I want to mention something that I believe is very important. Traditionally it has been said in Colombia that concern for human rights is a sign of weakness. We totally reject that assessment. I truly [passage indistinct] public force, I believe in strongly defending Colombia's democracy and citizens against drug traffickers, guerrillas, and common criminals. The same thing has been done in France, England, and Germany [words indistinct] one can have severe legislation, a severe [word indistinct] in the public force, in defense of democratic institutions without violating human rights. It is possible in this country to have a strong defense of democracy without violating human rights. That is the Defense Ministry's big challenge.

[Reporter] Does the defense minister's energetic attitude truly stem from a desire to protect democratic institutions and human life, or is it in direct relation to the fact that the flow of large sums have been reduced to our country.

[Botero] [Words indistinct] Colombia faces multiple [words indistinct] and sanctions on an international level project the image it has regarding human rights violation. We are seeing these problems on a daily basis in Europe and the United States, and each time the situation is more difficult for the nation unless serious measures are taken [words indistinct] President Samper's administration.

Undoubtedly, the situation of human rights violations cannot be limited to eventual isolated cases in the military and police forces. [Words indistinct] democracy with energy and firmness. [Words indistinct] concerns me because, as [words indistinct] Colombians, the monstrous systematic violation of human rights by guerrillas, drug traffickers, and common criminals through the use kidnappings, extortion, torture, indiscriminate use of booby traps, and so forth. This is a monstrous, barbarous violation of Colombians' human rights.

[Arizmendi] You mentioned the possibility of calling a meeting with international human rights organizations. How will this session be called, and what is the objective?

[Botero] More than just calling a session, we must make a big lobbying [previous word in English] effort abroad. Colombia has had and continues to have human rights problems, but it can also demonstrate multiple government actions intended to improve this situation. We can mention the new Constitution, the [words indistinct] Attorney General's Office, and of course, the very reforms and the change of attitude taking place inside the military forces.

All these actions have the goal of improving [words indistinct] the nation's human rights. I believe it is important to report these developments abroad, that it be known in the German legislature and in the U.S. Congress. The same way we have [words indistinct], we also have made great efforts and we will continue to make efforts to achieve an improvement [words indistinct]. [passage omitted]

High Level Commission To Work for Human Rights

PA2908230094 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Canal A Network in Spanish 0130 GMT 28 Aug 94

[From the "AM/PM" newscast]

[Text] Beginning this week, the cause of human rights has a great ally: the high level commission that falls under the Presidency of the Republic. Here is a report by Carlos Alberto Chica:

[Begin recording] [Chica] Four initiatives have been presented to the commission: 1. Review the public order jurisdiction and eliminate the faceless judges; 2. Create a high-level group, with UN supervision, to investigate the most relevant cases; 3. Demand from the guerrillas and the Army a minimum code of respect for international humanitarian law; and 4. Regulate, through law, Constitutional Article 22, which establishes that peace is an obligatory right and duty.

[Gustavo Gallon of Andean Jurists Commission] It is to be hoped that the government, after discussions with nongovernmental organizations, will adopt a positive stand in this regard. That is the commission's greatest challenge.

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[Chica] The commission, formed by 18 permanent members, will have as observers a delegate from the Inter-American Human Rights Commission and one from the Netherlands Government, which verifies the peace agreements with the Socialist Renewal Movement [CRS]. The innovative aspect of the commission, which will work for six months, is that for the first time, the government and the human rights activists are not confronting each other.

[Patricia Luna of the Human Rights Advisory Board] This will permit us to advance in the formulation of policies, measures, and action plans to protect, promote, and defend human rights.

[Chica] The CRS has said the commission's success or failure also depends on the organized pressure of civilian society.

[Leon Valencia of the CRS] This commission is also an opportunity for concerted effort and encounter between civilian society, the state, and the government.

[Chica] On Monday, the commission will draw up the action plan for its six months of work. [end recording]

Explosive Device Hurled at Air Force Sentry Post

PA3008032294 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0159 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] Cali, Colombia, 29 Aug (EFE)—A device exploded today at one of the sentry posts in one of the bases of the Colombian Air Force (FAC) in Cali, capital of the department of Valle del Cauca, but there are no reports of casualties, various radio stations announced.

Two individuals traveling on a motorcycle hurled the explosive device at one of the sentry posts in the perimeter of "Marco Fidel Suarez" Air Force School, which is located in Colombia's third most important city.

Members of the police, security groups, and Cali Firemen Corps arrived at the Air Force base to inspect the site of the attack.

Paraguay

Wasmosy's Departure for Brazil, Agenda Reported

PY2908193994 Asuncion RPC Television Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] Brazilian President Itamar Franco and his Paraguayan counterpart Juan Carlos Wasmosy will sign an agreement on contraband repression on 1 September. Wasmosy departed for Brazil this morning. His agenda includes meetings with various Brazilian state governors.

At this hour Wasmosy is participating in a luncheon offered by the Latin American Entrepreneurial Council, CEAL, in Sao Paulo. Wasmosy departed at 0600 this morning accompanied by an entourage of 200 people that included six ministers, 60 entrepreneurs, and 20 journalists.

In Sao Paulo Wasmosy will give a speech on Paraguayan prospects for joining the political and economic circles of the international system. Later the president will visit Espirito Santo State, Rio de Janeiro, and Brasilia. Tomorrow he will be in Espirito Santo visiting the factory Aracruz Celulosa and reforestation program conducted by that company.

In Rio de Janeiro on 31 August, Wasmosy will meet with businessmen and members of the Brazilian Literary Society and State Governor Nilo Batista.

Wasmosy will close his official visit in Brasilia on 1 September, where he will meet with his Brazilian counterpart Itamar Franco, who will decorate him with the Cruzeiro do Sul medal. Wasmosy, in turn, will decorate Franco with the Grand Collar of the Francisco Solano Lopez Order.

Military Ready To Fight for Democratic Process

PY2908225594 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 26 Aug 94 p 6

[Text] General Pedro Concepcion Ocampos, chief of the General Staff, stated on the morning of 26 August that the Armed Forces will shed "their blood" and take up "arms" to ward off the possibility that those who feel nostalgia for authoritarianism may thwart the democratic process. To that effect he underscored that the achievements made during this political transition should not be thrown overboard.

Gen. Ocampos was the keynote speaker at the ceremony held today on the observance of Armed Forces Day.

Juan Carlos Wasmosy, the head of state and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, laid a wreath at the National Pantheon.

Gen. Ocampos pointed out that "we reject any vestiges of sectarian interests, and offer the faithful and honorable support of our arms and our blood to prevent those who feel nostalgia for the authoritarian past from ever foiling the shining dawn of the democratic process we wish to live in."

The chief of the General Staff deemed that every time that the "phantoms of intolerance" appear, it is only right and imperative that the public be alerted to the high cost that was paid in order to get to this transition.

Gen. Ocampos stated that the historical opportunity to consolidate the democracy Paraguayans wrought on 2-3 February 1989 ought not to be thrown overboard.

In mentioning the Armed Forces' firm subordination and obedience to constitutional authorities, Gen. Ocampos said that the military are convinced that within the framework of democracy and a consolidated political

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stability it will be possible to provide an answer for the urgent social and economic needs, which are part and parcel of Paraguay's reality.

The Armed Forces ceremony once again caused a traffic jam in the downtown area, causing delays for people who had nothing to do with this ceremony.

Peru

Defense Ministry Confirms Crash Kills DEA Agents

PY3008030194 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0047 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] Lima, 29 Aug (EFE)—Today in Lima the Defense Ministry announced that five U.S. DEA [Drug Enforcement Administration] agents who were traveling in an aircraft that crashed on 27 August in a jungle area died in the accident.

An official communique issued by the head of the political-military command in the Huallaga region, where the Spanish-made twin-engined CASA aircraft crashed, today disclosed that the aircraft went down west of Puerto Pizana and on the northern side of the Canuto ravine, in San Martin Department.

The Peruvian military communique stated that two crew members and three DEA agents traveling in the aircraft were killed.

A DEA communique issued today in Lima through the U.S. Embassy's Information and Cultural Service also confirms the death of five DEA agents, whom it identifies.

The special DEA agents who were killed are: Frank Fernandez Jr., 38; Jay W. Seale, 31; Meredith Thompson, 33; Frank S. Wallace, 37; and Juan C. Vars, 32; who were sent to Peru from the central base in Washington, and from Los Angeles, Miami, Houston, and San Antonio respectively.

The U.S. communique states that a rescue team reached the site where the accident took place and confirmed that there were no survivors.

It then states that the twin-engined plane was flying from the Peruvian Police antinarcotics station in Santa Lucia on 27 August when it lost contact with the air control tower, and that the place of the accident was spotted on 28 August.

Moreover, its states that the cause of the accident is being investigated, but that according to the members of the search team, comprised of Peruvian military officers and DEA personnel, there were no signs of fire or explosion.

The communique also mentions that the five agents travelling in the aircraft were involved in the "Snowcap" drug enforcement operation that was implemented in Peru and Bolivia in 1987.

The DEA cooperates with the Peruvian drug enforcement police in Santa Lucia, where the U.S. helicopter base that helps in the antinarcotics operations was based. Now it has been transferred to Pucallpa, the capital of Ucayali Department, southeast of San Martin.

Fujimori Withdraws Pact Signed With Chile

PY2908201594 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1815 GMT 28 Aug 94

[Excerpt] Lima, 28 Aug (EFE)—President Alberto Fujimori has withdrawn from Congress the Lima Convention signed with Chile in May 1993. This convention seeks to resolve pending problems in the 1929 Border Treaty between the two countries.

According to reports published in today's press, Fujimori justified the withdrawal of the Peruvian-Chilean agreement because there is no national consensus regarding its content, and because Peruvian diplomatic, political, social, and institutional sectors and the people in general believe it undermines national sovereignty.

The Lima Convention was signed on 11 May 1993 at the Lima Government Palace by then Peruvian and Chilean Foreign Ministers Oscar de la Puente and Enrique Silva Cimma, respectively.

In keeping with the so-called agreement of understanding, and in compliance with the 1929 treaty, Chile would hand over to Peru for their management a dock, a railroad station, and a customs building, built by Chile, in the Chilean port of Arica, which had previously belonged to Peru.

What was apparently a solution to bilateral differences between the two countries dating back six decades became, nevertheless, a Peruvian diplomatic issue, because many Peruvian sectors believed that the Lima Convention did not uphold the spirit of the 1929 treaty and that it was detrimental to Peru.

Those who questioned the convention alleged that the agreement did not guarantee Peru's total and sovereign control of the management of the installations. They added that there was a possibility that some Chilean company might later obtain control of the installations.

Complaints increased, and the Peruvian Congress decided not to approve the Convention, which needed to be ratified by Congress in order to be implemented, as was established. Moreover, Congress stated that it had to be amended.

Congress submitted the contents of the agreement to a vast debate while the Chilean Congress, with the approval of both chambers, maintained its approval suspended in view of reactions in Peru.

Fujimori announced the withdrawal of the Lima Convention from Congress, where it had been for several

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months, after explaining that because of a lack of consensus and extensive criticism it was necessary to subject its contents to a "more ample" debate.

In a statement published in today's press, Fujimori said that this situation would also have to be assessed with Chile through diplomatic channels.

Fujimori added that there are no "established deadlines" for debate on, the study of, and renegotiation of the Lima Convention.

Fujimori announced his decision on the 65th anniversary of the reincorporation of the city of Tacna to Peru. Chile occupied the city of Tacna for 50 years after it had won the Pacific War (1879-1881) which it waged against Peru, which was an ally of the Bolivians. [passage omitted on historical background]

Uruguay

Surprise Expressed at 'Grave Incidents,' Clashes

PY2908132894 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2120 GMT 26 Aug 94

[Text] Montevideo, 26 Aug (AFP-NA)—The Uruguayan political system has been unable to find a valid explanation for the explosion of violence before the extradition to Spain of three Basque citizens. Political leaders, however, agreed in their fear of eventual terrorist activities in the country.

"Terrorism will not go away," President Luis Alberto Lacalle warned during his speech on 25 August in commemoration of the anniversary of the country's independence. He received the support of most political parties, including the leaders of the leftist coalition Broad Front.

But beyond the words, the population cannot overcome the amazement provoked by the television images broadcasting the grave incidents between police and demonstrators opposed to the extradition of the "etarras" [ETA, Basque Fatherland and Liberty, militants] on 24 August.

The official result of the clashes was one youngster dead and 75 wounded, six of them very seriously.

When 13 Basque nationals were arrested in Montevideo in May 1992 at the request of Spanish courts on charges of being members of the ETA separatist organization and of committing multiple homicides, no one would have imagined that the repatriation of three of them would place Uruguayan democratic peace in danger.

The "etarra" delegation arrived in Montevideo in 1991 with false documents and amounts of money large enough to permit them to open a chain of restaurants in elegant neighborhoods in the city. The restaurants were regularly visited by well-known Uruguayan political figures.

Under this "legal veil" the group slowly started to establish links with local radical left organizations, the papers of which were used to disseminate the "Basque independence cause" and to criticize Felipe Gonzalez's Socialist government.

This situation went unnoticed by Uruguay's incipient democracy, which was slowly consolidating following almost 12 years of military dictatorships, until violence suddenly broke loose in Montevideo's streets.

Interior Minister Angel Gianola blamed the gravity of the incidents on "groups of armed and organized civilians" who infiltrated demonstrators to provoke excesses and terrorist actions not seen in the country for the past 25 years.

Broad Front moderate leaders were also surprised at the "excessive reaction" of the mobilization organized by them and the single workers federation to express "solidarity" with the "etarras" who were going to be extradited and who were carrying out a hunger strike at a public hospital.

Senator Reinaldo Gargano of the Socialist Party did not hesitate to characterize the alleged "etarras" as "terrorists, murderers, and Nazis" after learning of the result of the incidents.

The left, however, could not reach a consensus when analyzing the situation, and the most radical groups continued to reject the extradition of the Basque nationals.

Former Tupamaro guerrillas, who lay down their arms to join the democratic system in 1985, warned the government through their spokesmen that "now it will have to bear all the consequences" that the extradition of the "etarras" might bring upon the country.

Asked if the remarks were insinuating possible ETA attacks in reprisal in Montevideo, Tupamaro leader Julio Marenales said his organization had only "issued a warning."

Political analysts give dozens of interpretations to the violence preceding the repatriation of the alleged "etarras," but confusion and bewilderment still prevail among the population and political leaders, who cannot explain this sudden violent outbreak.

Voters Reject Constitutional Reform

PY2908140694 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0332 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] Montevideo, 28 Aug (EFE)—During a plebiscite on 28 August, Uruguayans rejected a project to reform 14 articles of the Constitution pertaining to the electoral system. A preliminary vote count shows the project was defeated by the large difference of 63 to 28 percent.

Once the vote at 6,701 polling stations nationwide had been completed—the count of the outstanding 375 balloting tables in rural areas will be disclosed tomorrow—

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the Interior Ministry announced that there were twice as many "no" votes as "yes" votes.

The "yes" vote was only successful in one of the 19 municipalities in the country—Durazno, some 196 km due north of Montevideo. There, the "yes" vote obtained 55.2 percent while the "no" vote obtained 43.10 percent.

In the capital city of Montevideo, where half the 3 million Uruguayans live, the "no" vote polled 71 percent and the "yes" vote the 28 percent.

Here is the official result after the count of 1,856,765 votes—some 84 percent of the citizens eligible to vote:

NO votes:	1,162,828	(63 percent)
YES votes:	537,704	(28 percent)
Questioned votes:	104,395	(5.6percent)
Blank votes:	27,948	(1.5percent)
Null votes:	23,890	(1.2percent)

The questioned votes are those cast at the wrong polling stations. They will be counted by the Electoral Court once the identity of each voter has been checked so as to prevent a possible double vote.

The constitutional reform, which is supported by all political parties and by all the candidates who are running for the presidency in the 29-November elections, sought to separate municipal from national elections.

The proposal also included the "split ticket" both in municipal and national elections.

Venezuela

Foreign Minister Details Acceptance of Cubans

PA2908203094 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1952 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] Caracas, 29 Aug (DPA)—Venezuela will only accept a limited number of Cuban immigrants who must have family ties in Venezuela, and the government does not agree with the United States on the creation of refugee camps, according to Foreign Minister Miguel Burelli Rivas.

During a news conference, the Rafael Caldera administration official reiterated his willingness to accept Cuban citizens, either those who are fleeing in rafts or those filing immigration requests at the Venezuelan Embassy in Havana, provided they have relatives in this South American country.

According to Burelli Rivas, personnel at the diplomatic mission in Cuba will be increased, and the organization of exiles living in Venezuela will provide advice on screening immigrants. Besides the United States, Venezuela is the country with the largest number of Cuban residents.

The foreign minister also voiced disagreement with Washington's plan to create camps. Earlier, Caracas opposed a UN mandate that authorized the invasion of Haiti—something that "perhaps had a bearing" on Venezuela not being invited to the latest meeting of the "Group of Friends of Haiti," which also includes the United States, Canada, France, and Argentina.

In discussing the Cuban refugee issue, the minister was unable to confirm the exact method that will be used to process the Cubans, or to give precise numbers for visas or the number of Cubans to be transferred and relocated in Venezuela. Nevertheless, he insisted the process has the support of Venezuela's Cuban community.

He also recognized that so far there has not been any agreement with Havana on this issue, and he added, "We are basing this on the grounds that Cuba has authorized the departure of its citizens."

The minister said: "We believe the current situation in Cuba is an opportunity for the OAS to promote an in-depth review of the issue." He expressed his belief that Washington should negotiate with Havana, as it has already done with the communist governments of Vietnam, the PRC, and the DPRK.

He also said there is a possibility that Cuba and Haiti may be topics for debate at this week's Rio Group presidential summit in Brazil. The Venezuelan president is scheduled to attend the summit, as well as to attend the 6 September celebration of Brazil Day in Brasilia along with his Brazilian colleague Itamar Franco.

The foreign minister also reported that Caldera will attend the Panamanian president's inauguration on 1 September, the UN General Assembly on 24 and 25 September, and will greet Colombian President Ernesto Samper on his first visit to Caracas on 7 October.

Discusses Cubans Bringing in Relatives

PA2908232394 Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Report by Maria Lilibeth Acorte from the "Union Radio News" newscast]

[Text] Cubans who reside in Venezuela will be able to submit applications to bring their relatives to the country. Even though the U.S. Government has proposed that Venezuela open refugee centers for Cubans, our country has stated it will receive only those Cubans who have relatives residing in Venezuela.

Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Burelli Rivas has made the statement, adding Cubans residing in Venezuela will be able to submit applications for the issuance of visas to their relatives through the Interior Ministry.

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[Begin Burelli recording] Neither Cuba nor Venezuela believes a refugee center should exist. We would rather have them come, naturally, when their relatives here specify who they are and where they are so that the government may take the necessary procedures, through the Interior Ministry, to grant them provisional visas. [end recording]

Burelli has ruled out the existence of differences between one foreigner or another for entering our country, adding Venezuela should clearly state it is a country that has an extensive social crisis, and that reason is why it has made an exception in Haiti's case. Referring to Cuba, Burelli has said an organized Cuban community already exists in our country, and thus it would be no problem to receive their relatives, because this would guarantee them better living conditions and make it easy for the Venezuelan state to receive the Cuban immigrants.

[Hamburg DPA in Spanish at 2211 GMT on 29 August in a similar Caracas-datelined report adds: "Burelli Rivas has said Washington should negotiate with Havana, considering it has sat at the negotiation table with the Communist governments of Vietnam, China, and North Korea.

["He has also said the cases of Cuba and Haiti may be discussed at the Rio Group Presidential Summit, scheduled to be held next week in Brazil."]

Ambassador to Cuba on Refugees, U.S. Policy

PA3008013494 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 29 Aug 94 p D-2

[Report by Freddy Torres]

[Text] Gonzalo Garcia Bustillos, Venezuelan ambassador to Cuba, has reported that he will return to the island on 29 August to take the first steps for the emigration of Cubans to Venezuela as authorized by the Venezuelan Foreign Ministry. In line with Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Burelli Rivas' remarks, Garcia Bustillos said that only Cubans with relatives in Venezuela will be permitted to come to the country.

Garcia Bustillos assured that the process will be quick but that it will stick to requirements. He added that the number of Cubans who could come to Venezuela could be large, because the Cubans residing in Venezuela make up one of the largest groups in the country.

The ambassador has been in Caracas since Friday, when he met with President Rafael Caldera to report on the situation in Cuba. The ambassador also met with Burelli Rivas.

Garcia Bustillos, who opposes the U.S. policy toward Cuba "because it is the people who suffer," favors Latin American countries reaching a consensus to ask President Clinton to lift the embargo on Cuba.

The ambassador is convinced that the Cuban emigration to Miami is due more to economic than political reasons. "Any blockade is a crime against humankind," he said. As an illustration, he mentioned Haiti, where it is the people who suffer the hardships of an economic embargo that has created an alarming food and fuel shortage.

Garcia Bustillos, former secretary of the presidency during the government of Luis Herrera Campins, whom Garcia Bustillos visited in La Herrerena, the former president's residence, suggested that U.S. authorities should change their "wrong policy" toward Cuba. He wondered why successive U.S. presidents have not changed their minds on this subject, although more than 30 years of embargo have passed. "Apparently, a very strong Florida sector influences this policy," he said.

The ambassador declined to comment on the political situation or political freedoms, which, according to the opposition, are being trampled by the government of Fidel Castro. Nevertheless, he agreed on the idea of Latin American presidents inviting Cuba to become part of the region, so that Cuba can participate in the activities of common interest for the area countries. "We sponsor a dialogue between Cuba and the United States, as well as between Latin American countries and Cuba, a friendly country," the ambassador pointed out.

AD Executive Committee Members Reportedly Removed

PA2608152194 Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 25 Aug 94

[Report by Maria Lilibeth Dacorte; from the "Union Radio News" newscast]

[Text] The Democratic Action Party's (AD) National Administrative Committee [CDN] has been in session for eight hours. So far, however, only unofficial reports are available, according to which CDN has already decided to remove five members from the CEN, although not from the party. The expelled members are Antonio Ledezma, Aura Loreto de Rangel, Luis Emilio Rondon, Gustavo Mirabas, and Hector Alonso Lopez. The sources said the decision is unanimous but that AD leaders Paulina Gamuz, Carlos Canache Mata, Luis Figueroa, and Octavio Lepage abstained.

It has also been reported that Johann Peroso, secretary general for the Caracas area, vacated his office at the party in anticipation of whatever decision the CDN might make. Of his own accord, Peroso abandoned his post, which would be held by AD leader Jose Rubi. The CEN Undersecretary General Aristide Ostegades could intervene in the Caracas sectional's executive committee. Current National Youth Bureau secretary Liliana Hernandez could be replaced by Rosa Parra, a National Youth Bureau member. Hernandez could be appointed political secretary, a post currently held by Antonio Ledezma. Anyway, five CEN positions, those held by Aura Loreto, Luis Emilio Rondon, Gustavo Mirabal, Hector Alonso Lopez, and Antonio Ledezma, will be left vacant. It is worth mentioning that Claudio Fermin and

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Luis Figueroa Ordaz will remain in their posts because they are CEN natural members by reason of their being former presidential candidates. Fermin could be summoned before the party's disciplinary court.

AD Council Meeting Reportedly Stalls Congress

PA2608151694 Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 25 Aug 94

[From the "Union Radio News" newscast]

[Text] The Congress is nearly paralyzed due to the meeting of the Democratic Action's [AD] National Administrative Council. The chairmen of the subcommissions in charge of studying two proposals, one on the exchange system and another to amend the Financial Emergency Law, are AD members. Because of this, the interpellations have been suspended.

Roundup of Economic Developments

PA2608220994

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on economic developments in Venezuela monitored through 23 August.

At a meeting of the Deposit Guarantee and Banking Protection Fund (Fogade), the Bank Superintendency, and the Labor Ministry, an agreement was reached to pay off or transfer workers from financial institutions in which the government has intervened, which include seven banks and the Sociedad Financiera. Fogade President Norys Aguirre says that all eight financial institutions are covered by Fogade insurance, with their own funds, to pay off laid off workers. (Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 16 Aug 94)

During the first six months of 1994, the Finance Ministry collected 270.825 billion bolivares. Of this amount, 6 billion bolivares was personal income tax, which met 98.7 percent of the set goal. Personal income tax for the same period in 1993 amounted to 4.977 billion bolivares. The increasing fiscal deficit will have to be offset with higher gasoline prices and higher electric power rates. (Caracas REPORTE DE LA ECONOMIA in Spanish 16 Aug 94 p 8)

According to the president of the Venezuelan Petroleum Chamber, the FOB price of Venezuelan export gasoline should be $20 a barrel, equivalent to 20 bolivares a liter. He also said that Venezuelans should demand higher quality gasoline. (Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 17 Aug 94)

Lagoven has discovered a light crude, 31.7 degrees API, oil field in Block B of Lake Maracaibo at a depth of 14,500 feet. Reserves are estimated at 23.8 million barrels, of which 17.8 million are proven and 6 million probable. (Caracas REPORTE DE LA ECONOMIA in Spanish 16 Aug 94 p 17)

British Petroleum (BP) announced in Caracas that provided it finds adequate exploitation and production projects, it could invest up to $1 trillion in Venezuela over the next few years. BP is interested in reactivating the Pedernales program, which now operates under BP, as well as the Quiriquire project, in which BP has a 45 percent interest. (Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 22 Aug 94)

The energy and mines minister is expected to announce new electric power rates on 22 August, which will correct the inflation adjustment factor. (Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 22 Aug 94)

Several states will receive 677 billion bolivares for infrastructure work. These are Guarico, Carabobo, Lara, and Portuguesa, which will receive more than 600 billion bolivares from the Foundation for Community and Municipal Development (Fundacomun) and the World Bank. (Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 22 Aug 94)

Maraven's investment budget for the first six months of 1994 amounts to 99 billion bolivares. Most was invested in upgrading the Cardon Refinery, currently the oil industry's most important, for which Maraven earmarked more than 70 billion bolivares. Production goals were surpassed with a daily production of 857,000 barrels. (Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 22 Aug 94)

Indulac President Gustavo Pinto Cohen denied there are any hidden powdered milk supplies or reserves in the country. He said that daily milk production is 400,000 liters compared to 1993. (Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 22 Aug 94)

Corpoven has invested 10.7 billion bolivares and has managed to increase oil production in Apure State to 118,000 barrels a day by drilling 25 new wells, modifying installations in La Victoria and Guafita oil fields, and by installing additional equipment and electric plants that will allow handling the additional production. Corpoven estimates reserves of 822 million barrels, of which 410 million are in Barinas and 406 million in Paez Municipality, Apure State. (Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 23 Aug 94 pp 2-3)

Venezuelan Central Bank, BCV, international reserves increased by more than $1 billion in the months the market has been under currency exchange controls. (Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 23 Aug 94 pp 2-4)

Commenting on an international news report that the World Bank has asked Venezuela to lift the exchange controls, Venezuelan Central Bank official Domingo Maza Zavala said that cannot be done until the economy is sufficiently strong. He insisted the objective of this measure is to end profound imbalances in the economy through macroeconomic stabilization. (Caracas ECONOMIA HOY in Spanish 22 Aug 94 p 5)

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Foreign Exchange Administration Board Director Luis Raul Matos Azocar has explained that new rules have been adopted to register foreign investments and repatriate the dividends yielded by these investments. Foreign investors who register their debts with the Superintendency for Foreign Investments will be entitled to repatriate part of the profits that remain after they make up their operating costs in the country. This measure does not apply to foreign airlines, which are covered by international agreements. It does apply, however, to companies that fall under the terms of the Cartagena Accord and that are classified as foreign investments. (Caracas ECONOMIA HOY in Spanish 23 Aug p 13)

Suriname

U.S. Requests Acceptance of Haitian Refugees

BR2908125594 Amsterdam DE VOLKSKRANT in Dutch 29 Aug 94 p 4

[Article by Linda Otter: "Suriname Asked To Take More Haitians"]

[Text] Paramaribo—The United States has asked Suriname for a second time to accept double the number of Haitian refugees. Washington wants Suriname to take 5,000 Haitian refugees temporarily, rather than 2,500. A special representative of U.S. President Clinton will come to Paramaribo this week for talks.

It is the second time that Suriname has been asked by the United States to take 5,000 Haitian refugees. The proposal was recently rejected by the Surinamese Government.

Last month, Suriname agreed to take 2,500 Haitians. At present, they are staying at the U.S. Guantanamo base on Cuba. They will come to Suriname at the end of September and will be hosted in tent camps in the Ayoko barracks in Zanderij, 60 kms from Paramaribo. They are to remain in Suriname for six months.

Washington has promised compensation for all costs and transport. The Americans are also to ensure that the Ayoko barracks are tidied up and the road network improved, among other things.

A Foreign Ministry official in Paramaribo said the Surinamese attitude toward taking more Haitian refugees has not changed. He said the government would perhaps be prepared to agree to the request if Suriname were to benefit financially. "We must see what nice things the Americans can offer us," he said.

Last week, Suriname was asked by the United States to take Cuban refugees as well. The Surinamese Government has let it be known that it would prefer not to do so. It is said to refuse to get involved in the conflict between the United States and Cuba. On Friday [26 August], U.S. Ambassador Gamble created the impression among civil servants in Paramaribo that Washington would find it no great matter if Suriname were to reject the request to take Cuban refugees.

Rebels Break Peace Agreement

BR2908133194 Rotterdam NRC HANDELSBLAD in Dutch 27 Aug 94 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Rebels Break Peace Agreement"]

[Text] Former fighters from the Surinamese Jungle Commando yesterday unilaterally declared invalid the peace agreement which the government made with them in August 1992. Members of the Jungle Commando say that the Surinamese Government has been at fault in implementing the agreement. The ex-fighters have been threatening to cancel the peace agreement since the arrest of their former leader Ronny Brunswijk, detained on Wednesday [24 August] for shooting someone he suspected of theft.

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